

FBIS

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CONTENTS

Latin America

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Panama's Delvalle Opens Contadora Meeting	A 1
[Panama City]	
Gutierrez Views Prospects	A 2
[Panama City]	
C.A. Foreign Ministers' Statements	A 3
[Panama City]	
Consalvi, Wagner Comment	A 4
[Panama City]	
'Significant Progress' Reported	A 5
[AFP]	
Debates Extended [AFP]	A 5
To Meet in Special Session [ACAN]	A 6
Foreign Ministers Comment [ACAN]	A 6
Ministers Returning Home [REUTER]	A 7

ARGENTINA

Ministers Announce New Wage-Price Policy Moves	B 1
Sourrouille Speech	B 1
Barrionuevo Speech	B 3
CGT Response	B 5
Perez de Cuellar Supports Contadora Initiatives	B 6
Denies Falklands Proposal	B 7

BRAZIL

Police Guard for U.S. Missions Reinforced	D 1
[O GLOBO 3 Apr]	

PERU

U.S. Cultural Center Hit in Dynamite Attack	J 1
Earthquake Kills 16, Destroys 2,000 Houses	J 1
14 Terrorists Die in La Mar Province	J 1

MEXICO

Arab Groups Claim Responsibility for Plane Crash	M 1
Claim Doubted; Security Tightened	M 1
Ten Honduran Political Prisoners Arrive	M 2
Cuba's Aguirre Discusses Disarmament, Angola	M 2
Venezuelan Official Condemns U.S. Aid to Contras	M 2
Cuban Ambassador on U.S. Acts Against Libya	M 3
EL DIA on U.S. Senate Contra Aid Vote [29 Mar]	M 3
UN Envoy: Nicaragua Not Threat To Stability	M 5
GDR Ambassador on Strengthening Relations	M 5
Pemex Director: Oil Exports Still Profitable	M 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Soviet Trade Union Leaders Visit Local Unions
[LA REPUBLICA 26 Mar] P 1

Deputy Says Tuna Fishing Agreement Important P 1
Briefs: Ambassadors To Present Credentials P 1

EL SALVADOR

FPL Issues 16th Anniversary Communique
[Venceremos] P 1

U.S. Military Adviser 'Could Be' Dead, Wounded
[Venceremos] P 4

Further Details [Venceremos] P 4

GUATEMALA

Cerezo Confirms Presidential Summit To Be Held
Nunez Discusses Contra Aid, Honduran 'Invasion'
[EL GRAFICO 4 Apr] P 5
P 6

Economy Minister Departs for 8-Day Taiwan Visit P 8
Defense Minister Sworn In as Condeca President P 8
Government Minister Discusses PCT Publication P 8

HONDURAS

Azcona Discusses Recent Crisis With Nicaragua
Nicaraguan PLI Leader Godoy Meets With Azcona
[TIEMPO 3 Apr] P 9
P 12

President Says Military Exercises Justified P 13
Foreign Secretary Rejects U.S. Officials' Reports P 14

NICARAGUA

Honduran Ambassador To Return Home 'Urgently' P 15
D'Escoto Receives Visiting Indian Delegation P 15

D'Escoto To Attend Contadora Meeting in Panama P 15

CUBA

GRANMA: Duarte, Seaga 'Vassals' of Reagan Q 1

Comment on U.S. Tactics, Advisers in El Salvador Q 1

Commentary on U.S. Central America Policy Q 2

U.S. 'False Statements' on Rebel Training Noted Q 3

Salvadoran Radio Cited on U.S. Adviser 'Casualty' Q 3

Delegate Speaks at Latin American Parliament Q 4

Other Delegates Comment Q 4

Latin American Economic Situation Viewed Q 4

Radio Cites BARRICADA on Pressures on Honduras Q 5

Nonaligned Ministers Issue Report, End Meeting Q 5

Risquet Gives Angola's Santos Message From Castro Q 6

Cooperation Agreement With Mongolia Signed Q 6

Raul Castro Greets Pioneer Organization Q 6

Raul Castro Notes Central Army Anniversary Q 6

CARIBBEAN

Rainford Notes Caricom's Cash Shortage	S 1
CDB Predicts Poor Economic Growth, Trade	S 1
CDB To Discuss Outstanding Indebtedness	S 1

DOMINICA

Government Sets By-Elections To Fill John's Seat	S 2
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PANAMA'S DELVALLE OPENS CONTADORA MEETING

PA051918 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Speech by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle to the Contadora and Support Groups and Central American Foreign Ministers in Panama City -- live]

[Text] Gentlemen Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group; Gentlemen Foreign Ministers Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Support Group; Gentlemen Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers of Central America; Mr Foreign Minister of the low countries [as heard], Gentlemen Ambassadors: We wish to warmly greet and welcome all of you and all special envoys to this meeting because you are bearers of hope, which is an essential element of peace, that stable and lasting peace that we need as much as we need cooperation for the economic and social development of Central America and which is urgently needed today -- more than ever before -- in the face of the unfortunate tensions that are evident in the region, which is made up of the brother nations with which we have close personal, historical, and geographic ties.

Panama will always be a site for holding meetings that seek understanding and dialogue. Our amphictyonic spirit is and will continue to be one of the most characteristic traits of our country. That spirit is also the reason for our inevitable participation in the Contadora Group, to which we are privileged to act as the host today.

For Panamanians, the word peace has become a highly valuable and appreciated asset. It has become almost the creed of our national conscience. Due to our nearness to the drama being experienced by our Central American brothers and our unique geographic position that facilitates communications, we quickly see what takes place in the region and the repercussions on the rest of the world. That double condition forces us, first of all, to express deep and grave concern over the alarming events in the region, about which the international press reports daily. Second, we issue a firm call to all those who truly love peace to redouble their efforts so as to prevent an escalation that will bring greater conflicts and misfortunes. Those efforts should involve actions to achieve the easing of tensions, to achieve respectful dialogue, tolerance, and intensification of education for peace so that we will all learn to value, protect, and cultivate it. Finally, we must provide hope that the cause of peace with dignity, harmony, and understanding will triumph. Those hopes, of which you are the main messengers, fill us with healthy expectations, reasonable optimism, and new determination to continue working for peace, because we believe peace is our destiny and that all Central American peoples demand and deserve a time of rest and a prompt end to the agony they are suffering, an unjust and contagious agony that we must help stop and eradicate.

We are convinced that the cause of an honorable and just peace, honorable understanding, and fraternal harmony will prevail among the Central American peoples, that the guns will cease their ominous sound, and that a dawn of development and prosperity will mark the rebirth of a region located in the center of the continent and that from there that rebirth will spread to the rest of the two Americas.

The economic difficulties being experienced by Latin America, which are caused to a great extent by the unbearable weight of servicing the foreign debt, the unjust trade relations, and the lack of international resources to reactivate productive activities, are also a very worrisome source of social tensions and threatening conflicts.

That is why, echoing a generalized feeling among the Latin American peoples, we have offered Panama as the site for the heads of state of our countries to examine all those issues and lay the foundations for a renewed solidarity of concepts and actions to promote Latin America's economic development and prosperity, which will be one of the most vigorous guarantees of peace.

All of us are working tirelessly for the arrival of that new era with the conviction that the advice and opinions expressed in this meeting will be heard by the main actors of the Central American drama, who have in their hands the instruments to solve the conflicts and whose political will is solely decisive in turning these times of darkness and war into times of light, harmony, and peace.

Messrs Ministers: I take this truly propitious opportunity to extend to the chiefs of state of the countries that you represent cordial greetings of constant friendship and deep gratitude for their contribution to the cause of Contadora, which is perhaps the most beautiful agreement of objectives that has ever existed in America. Thank you very much.

Gutierrez Views Prospects

PA052125 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Interview with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez by Julio Miller in Panama City on 5 April -- recorded]

[Text] [Gutierrez] We believe that the discussion of bilateral problems should not distract us from the main objective of the Contadora process. For 3 years we have stated that the problems will be resolved through what I would say is the boldest, most comprehensive, and most concrete treaty ever drafted on the Central American problems. Our hope is that the deadlocks will be overcome at this meeting and that we will set a date for a meeting of plenipotentiaries to discuss the two points still pending so that we will be ready to sign the document as soon as possible.

[Miller] What is your view of the delay in the signing of the Contadora peace document and some sectors' assertions that such a delay has enabled Nicaragua to arm itself to continue to promote violence in the region?

[Gutierrez] Well, we hope that the Contadora process will have the happy ending that it should in view of the efforts that have been made. The only happy ending that the Contadora process can have is the signing of the document. I do not want to comment on why one or another of those who have disagreed have delayed this, but this process has an objective, and under no circumstances must we deviate from that objective.

[Miller] In Latin America, Costa Rica is the democratic nation par excellence. In your opinion, how much longer will it take Contadora to achieve the signing of a peace agreement?

[Gutierrez] Well, last year we established a period of time, and the only thing we obtained in that time was a resounding refusal from the Nicaraguan Government. I would not like to again establish a period of time, because the important thing is to sign the document as soon as possible.

[Miller] In view of Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge's statements, what will Costa Rica's position be if nothing specific comes out of this meeting with regard to peace in Central America?

[Gutierrez] Well, we would have to seek new alternatives. The problem is that if for 3 years we have considered Contadora the sole alternative, we would not like to deem it necessary to seek new paths, when in reality we already have a well-worn path. Although President Monge did not make such statements, they were not aimed at hindering the process, but at pointing out Costa Rica's interest in speeding up this process.

C.A. Ministers' Statements

PA052116 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1817 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Amid strict security measures, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle opened a new round of negotiations of the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and other countries of the area that will lead to signing the final document and thus end the hostilities in Central America. Prior to the opening of this new round of negotiations with 13 Latin American foreign ministers, we interviewed Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, and Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras. In the first place, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister D'Escoto said the U.S. Government has very few plans to put an end to the multimillion-dollar strategic support for the aggressors of Nicaragua, pointing out that on the same day that President Ronald Reagan refused to talk with the Contadora foreign ministers he was meeting with the contra terrorists.

[begin recording] [D'Escoto] (He sent us) a very good message that day. He refused to meet with them, but on that same day he met with the terrorists of the so-called contras, on that same day. However, he refused to meet with foreign ministers of other very important Latin American countries. This is a clear message that the United States supports terrorism and violations of international law and is opposed to the peaceful negotiations that the Contadora and Support Groups are now promoting.

[Unidentified reporter] What does Nicaragua want specifically in order to sign the document?

[D'Escoto] In the first place, let us not speak about signing a document, as we are not at that stage now. As you well know, we are at the stage of negotiating a new document. After it had already been said that there would never be any new negotiations, as you might well remember in September 1984, we again engage in new negotiations -- naturally under U.S. pressure -- and of the text that is being negotiated now, about 70 percent has already been negotiated and agreed upon. Now then, we must negotiate those aspects having to do with the issues of security, military development for the defense of sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of each of the states. That is where it is said: Well, we cannot continue talking about freezing and reducing armaments when we are being attacked by the strongest military and economic power of the world, and when the President publicly says that he will continue and even increase [support to the contras] and is becoming directly involved in the struggle, as we saw during Holy Week when he committed himself to sending military advisers. This is something he admitted publicly: sending military advisers to Honduras or Costa Rica to advise the contras. Under such circumstances, how can it be reasonable to tell a country that is the target of such an aggression to reduce or even plan to eliminate its Army? That is absurd, but that is what Caraballeda and Punta del Este say. That is why it is said that in order to continue negotiating it is necessary that all aid to irregular forces come to a halt. However, the United States says it has nothing to do with that. [end recording]

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Castillo told Radio Nacional that the main purpose of the 13 foreign ministers' meeting in Panama is to lay the groundwork for the final conclusion and signing of the act of Contadora, although he pointed out there are still some points having to do with security and control of armaments yet to be resolved.

[Begin Castillo recording] This is undoubtedly part of the Contadora efforts, and on this occasion I understand we are here to establish the method and timetable for concluding the Contadora document on Central American peace and cooperation. To this effect, the main goal of this meeting should be the signing of this document, as it is the document that contains all the legal and political factors capable of creating the conditions necessary for peaceful coexistence in Central America, naturally within the spirit of the declarations of Caraballeda and Punta del Este that contribute to the philosophy and main objectives of the Contadora act. These are not necessarily points of conflict, but points that must be worked out, and these are the points having to do with security, verification, and control. On this basis, we must and should be able to make progress. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras stated that in spite of the recent incidents between his country and Nicaragua, the outlook for peace does not seem affected and that the problem of hostilities in Central America is greater. [sentence as heard]

[Begin Lopez recording, in progress] ...as an action of security and diplomatic action. Likewise, as a diplomatic action, we have not wanted it to appear as a war action. We have tried to keep the situation within certain boundaries, in order not to affect the outlook for this Contadora meeting, the peacemaking efforts, with the border incidents that took place during Holy Week. We have not received any specific proposal, but it might be announced this morning. We do know that the Nicaraguan Government has suggested or directly proposed that initiative to the Contadora Group countries. We believe that the fact that there are 13 foreign ministers here in addition to an EEC representative means that there is something more than just a bilateral border problem. Rather, the situation obviously has a greater dimension and, why not say so, even a worldwide dimension. [end recording]

Consalvi, Wagner Comment

PA060201 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 0015 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group resumed their deliberations in our capital today with their colleagues from Central America and the Support Group, which is made up of Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Simon Alberto Consalvi, the foreign minister of Venezuela, a member-country of the Contadora Group, said the following about today's deliberations:

[Begin Consalvi recording] Innumerable obstacles have cropped up throughout the years in the process for peace in Central America, but I would say, without being too much of an optimist, that we are all making a great effort to ensure that this meeting of the 13 foreign ministers, who are meeting together for the first time, will be truly useful and significant and will demonstrate, in the final analysis, that we Latin Americans are competent and have sufficiently clear vision to find a formula for the solution of our own problems. [end recording]

Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner was also questioned by the local and foreign press.

[Begin Wagner recording] We have concentrated on matters related to concluding negotiations on the Contadora Document and the complementary measures that are contained in the Caraballeda message. [end recording]

'Significant Progress' Reported

PA061903 Paris AFP in Spanish 1643 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Panama, 6 Apr (AFP) -- The Contadora Group has made "significant progress" in recent hours in its effort to establish a timetable for the final negotiation and signing of the document for peace and cooperation in Central America, diplomatic sources reported today. The 13 Latin American foreign ministers have been meeting since Saturday in Panama to negotiate formulas with the Central American governments in order to conclude the peace negotiations which the Contadora Group has been advancing for the past 3 years.

Sources at the meeting said that the timetable for signing the peace document will be established this afternoon and that it would include calls for at least three more meetings at different levels in April and May. The sources added that the signing of the document for peace and cooperation in Central America was tentatively proposed for some time between 31 May and 15 June. Apparently the foreign ministers of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica) have accepted the proposed timetable.

However, some sources acknowledged their concern that this agreement may become frustrated by Nicaragua's "inflexibility," as it has conditioned progress in the regional negotiations on a "halt in the aggression" against the Sandinist revolution by the United States. However, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia has told AFP that Nicaragua "is maintaining a positive attitude" and that there is confidence that the meeting of the 13 foreign ministers will achieve its mission.

Moreover, sources in the meeting said that the "apathy" of the Costa Rican Government, which leaves office in May, could pull momentum away from the final peace efforts. However, beyond these obstacles, optimism seemed to be spreading on Sunday among the Central American, Contadora Group, and Support Group foreign ministers.

Some participants explained that the advances made in the past few hours were prompted by a change in the Contadora Group's strategy, which stressed "bilateral contacts" over plenary meetings, where differences arise and become pronounced more quickly. In this regard, the sources said that consideration was even given to the possibility that during the final round of consultations the Contadora Group foreign ministers may travel to each of the Central American capitals before convening regional meetings.

Debates Extended

PA070129 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Panama City, 6 Apr (AFP) -- The Contadora Group was still trying tonight to achieve the "political consensus" of the Central American countries for the final peace negotiations in the area.

However the announcement that the sessions will continue proves how difficult the task is. The meeting of the 13 Latin American foreign ministers, who since Saturday have been discussing formulas to complete the negotiations started by Contadora 3 years ago, was scheduled to end at 1700 on Sunday. However, at the last moment it was reported that the meetings will continue, possibly until midnight or early Monday morning.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia told AFP that "political aspects are prolonging the talks." However, he confirmed his optimism regarding the outcome of the talks.

Meanwhile, Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez has said that his country is willing to sign the Contadora Act "if there are guarantees" that its articles will be complied with and if there is no haste in setting a date for signing. He also warned that the border problems between Honduras and Nicaragua "must be resolved with an over-all framework and not bilaterally."

To Meet in Special Session

PA070723 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0707 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Panama City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Contadora meeting being held in this city concluded at dawn today without setting a deadline for the peace negotiations in Central America, and therefore it was decided to call for a special session this morning. The five Central foreign ministers have not reached a consensus on the final communique proposed by the Contadora Group and the Support Group, following 16 hours of negotiations.

At the end of today's session, which concluded at 0100, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorse Abadia Arias said that they have not reached an agreement on the "foreign interventions in the area" and "several other opinions on the deadline" proposed for concluding the draft of the regional peace treaty.

Foreign Ministers Comment

PA070809 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0752 GMT 7 Apr 86

[By Agustin de Gracia]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Following lengthy conversations over the last 2 days, the Contadora Group did not obtain a consensus of the Central American countries for setting a deadline for the peace conversations of the region. The Contadora and Support Groups have proposed that the negotiations conclude in the 1st week of June, which apparently all the Central American countries, with the exception of Nicaragua, agree upon. The Sandinist diplomats, according to diplomatic sources, have maintained their stand of not negotiating any military commitments of the peace document so long as the United States does not cease supporting the "contras."

"We want to make a supreme effort and try to reach the consensus," Panamanian Foreign Minister Abadia Arias said. The Panamanian foreign minister reported that "some foreign ministers" will not attend tomorrow's meeting, but he did not identify which ones. Abadia believes that an agreement can be reached, "but we cannot guarantee that," he added.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi pointed out there have been difficulties: "We know we have many, many obstacles."

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount, the only Central American foreign minister who was present at the end of the meeting, was very pessimistic about the meeting, officially convoked for Saturday and Sunday. "There is no possibility of reaching an agreement," Salvadoran Vice President and Foreign Minister Castillo said. Castillo insisted that Nicaragua is the only nation that does not accept setting a deadline for the peace negotiations.

It was impossible to learn the opinion of the Sandinist delegation as both Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco have not been seen by the press since early Sunday morning.

"Tomorrow, tomorrow," said a member of the Nicaraguan delegation to a group of newsmen who tried to learn the reaction of the Managua government to the statements by Castillo.

Ministers Returning Home

PA070553 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0516 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 Apr (REUTER) -- The foreign ministers of 13 Latin American nations today began to return to their home cities following 2 days of conversations on the pacification of Central America that were noted for the disagreements over military issues. However, some of the foreign ministers said they were optimistic about a possible agreement by the Central American countries to establish the date for signing the much-sought peace plan for the region prepared by the Contadora Group.

The conference -- which was attended by representatives of the five Central American states, the Contadora Group, made up of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela, and its Support Group, made up of Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay -- was subjected to strong pressures to reach specific results in its search for a negotiated solution of the regional conflict. However, up to last night it was difficult to specify what the result of the negotiations was.

Honduran Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras said that the delegates thought it was possible that the Central American countries -- who are undoubtedly divided in ideology -- might sign the Contadora Group peace treaty that emphasizes the demilitarization of the area in conflict. "I feel optimistic," he told newsmen shortly after the multilateral dialogue closed last night. However, there are still some disagreements over military issues, including the topics of reducing Armed Forces and the military maneuvers, he pointed out.

Salvadoran Vice President and Foreign Minister Rodolfo Castillo Claramount said that all of the Central American countries, with the exception of Nicaragua, might agree to signing the peace document by the end of May. The Latin American diplomats who participated in the conversations said that the meeting was marred by the growing frustration resulting from Washington's policy toward Central America, where three countries are facing insurgents' warfare. "The main problem is that the United States insists on military solutions for the conflict," a diplomat commented during an informal conversation.

MINISTERS ANNOUNCE NEW WAGE-PRICE POLICY MOVES

Sourrouille Speech

PY050327 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Address to the nation by Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille over radio and television on 4 April -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Good evening. Two months ago I announced several initiatives intended to stimulate exports, capital goods investments, and housing construction for the purpose of giving a push to the economy. At that time, I also talked about the 1986 budget that we were submitting to the nation's honorable Congress for approval.

Today, I will announce another package of new rules, to control the main economic variables and make them fit the predicted inflation rate of 2 percent per month. The objective of the changes is the same as that of the economic-reform plan that was implemented on 15 June 1985: to consolidate the country's prospects for growth with stability. In the past 9 months, that objective has been attained, and this can be seen by everyone.

Today, we can confirm that we have pulled out of the economic recession. With some exceptions, but in general terms, the economic activity is in the process of recovery. This is good news.

As for incomes, we have sufficient information to be able to say that the purchasing power of wages remains at the same level of June 1985. The increased buying power obtained through the abrupt drop in the inflation rate has drastically changed the situation prevailing in the months before the implementation of the Austral Plan, when price increases every month neutralized the nominal regular monthly salary increases. The aforementioned increased purchasing power was not reduced by the accumulated inflation over the past three quarters, first, because of the wage increases granted in December; and second, because before and after December, the private sector and the public sector granted increases in total remunerations.

Still regarding incomes, I would like to make an additional comment on the price of fresh food items. The main component of the inflation registered over the past 9 months was the price of fresh food items. We have admitted on previous occasions the responsibility we have regarding the possibility of becoming more efficient in the marketing process. The instructions given to the new officials of the Interior Commerce Secretariat are to correct this inefficiency. But we also want to stress that part of the phenomenon involving the price of the fresh food items cannot, over the short term, be amenable to the government's direct action. The existence of a growing demand, the seasonal variations of supply, and the shortage of supply of some products have pushed the relative prices of these food items above the levels at which those prices stood when the Austral Plan went into effect. We believe that this food price rise has justifiably heightened concern over the variation in the purchasing power of salaries.

Of course, the structural problems of the Argentine economy have not yet been totally resolved, and it is understandable that dissatisfaction and conflicts should emerge. But today we have the basis laid down, ready to build and consolidate upon it the nation's effort. The changes we are announcing today consist essentially of a package of new rules to minimize costs and tension in an economy that operates at low levels of inflation, and at the same time, to keep those costs and tensions from becoming a source of imbalance that will hinder the growth recovery.

Today we can assert that the rules of the Austral Plan have accomplished their intended purpose. Nine months of experience have been sufficient to put behind us the expectations associated with the previous 10 years of high inflation, and to verify that it was possible to pull out of recession and begin to grow with low rates of inflation. To maintain the same initial rules would be a mistake. The time has come to change them, and to replace them with other rules. As with the previous ones, the new rules should permit Argentines to develop a joint and coordinated action with new objectives. Today, the objective is no longer to terminate hyperinflation, because this has already been done.

The objective of the new rules is to reinforce the growth process that is underway and to stabilize inflation. We want to stress that the coordination of prices, salaries, and government-administered variables constitutes now, as before, an indispensable factor for growth with stability. But the framework will now be flexible. And this greater flexibility implies that the necessary coordination should result from the rational and responsible behavior of the economic and social sectors, as well as of the institutions charged with implementing public administration.

The guiding principle of the changes being introduced is to make, with some frequency, minor adjustments in the main variables so as to avoid deterioration of real wages, the emergence of imbalances in public finances, and the loss in competitiveness of our exports. Regarding the exchange rate, we will implement a small devaluation of the austral, setting the price of the U.S. dollar at 83 cents of the austral. This readjustment is not intended to make up for an accumulated imbalance, because we do not believe the austral parity has fallen behind. The readjustment is rather intended to give an additional incentive to our exports, particularly the agricultural exports that are suffering a severe drop in international prices in the wake of the commercial war among the northern countries.

The government wishes to reiterate once again that it is willing to give as much support as it can to agricultural production, which is not only a genuine source of foreign exchange, but also of growth. Furthermore, the new exchange rate will increase the flexibility of any future currency exchange policy. From now on, there will be small adjustments directed at preserving the international rate of exchange of our currency.

The rule for the adjustment to public-sector rates and utilities provides for small period corrections aimed at security stability while markedly improving public finances. As a whole, the prices of commodities and services supplied by public enterprises will increase in April by 5 percent on the average. However, increases will be prorated. The objective of this procedure is to reduce as far as possible the impact which these corrections may have on the workers' income and expenditures.

Only gas and electric power rates will be increased more than 5 percent. These rates will go up by 6 percent. It must be made clear, however, that the electric power rate for low-consumption users will rise by only 4 percent. Furthermore, while the prices of most fuels will increase by 4 percent, gasoline prices will increase by approximately 8 percent. This hike is clearly directed at improving state finances while having very little impact on the expenditures of the average consumer families.

Bus, railroad, and subway fares will not be increased in April. In subsequent months the prices and fares of public services and utilities will increase at the rate of 2 percent per month.

This adjustment of utility rates has been prompted by distortions in the originally budgeted expenditures of the public sector. Strict compliance with the rules and regulations having to do with salaries, which will be announced shortly, will ensure that budgetary targets set for the remainder of the year will be fulfilled. The government plans to strengthen its control over the management of the state organizations where most distortions originated.

The rules and regulations concerning exchange rates and utility rates that we have outlined, as well as the ones on salaries that the labor minister will announce shortly, call for appropriate adjustments to the prices policy. In this regard the government has decided to move from a system of frozen prices which, we must admit, has been quite flexible, toward a system of controlled prices. The government wants the private sector to progressively recover its role in establishing prices and we hope this will be achieved in a spirit of responsibility and social solidarity. In the short term this will allow the government to focus its attention on supervising the compliance with the agreements that enterprises and corporations may negotiate.

As a rule, prices will have to follow the scale established by the salary policy for salary hikes. The price policy we will now announce has several aspects. First, price agreements will be sought for products that occasionally glut the market and for raw materials and components that comprise a large share of costs production of other commodities. In the near future the Domestic Trade Secretariat will hold talks with enterprise and corporations to negotiate the appropriate agreements. This secretariat will also make public the general rules and regulations regarding ceiling prices, cost transfers and cost-margin definitions.

Price increases for the commodities not included in this category will continue to require advance permission from the domestic trade secretariat. The government plans to reduce progressively the number of commodities subject to this procedure to the extent permitted by the normalization of the market. In the second place, action will be taken to enhance the supply of staples, especially fresh and perishable foodstuffs, demand for which has been growing steadily since June 1985. In some cases it will be necessary to keep ceiling prices for some of these commodities and cut down on the distribution and marketing profit margins.

The main thing, however, is to achieve a steady supply, independent of fluctuations and defective marketing mechanisms. The government plans to enlarge the network of supermarkets, of community stores and consumers' cooperatives. Foodstuffs will be imported whenever supply is short decline, either for seasonal reasons or monopolistic maneuvers.

Barrionuevo Speech

PY050312 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color in Spanish 0022 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Speech by Labor Minister Hugo Barrionuevo to the nation over radio and television on 4 April -- recorded]

[Text] A few days ago, in my role as labor and social security minister and in the name of the national government, I outlined the country's social and labor situation and I explained the bases of a program to undertake the most important aspects of the reforms to the labor relations system, participation by the social sectors, and income policy.

I explained the need to stimulate dialogue to achieve its institutionalization as a rational mechanism to progress in a clear, honest, and sincere negotiation that will lead us to solid sectorial and intersectorial agreements for the future. On that occasion, I explained the progress that has been achieved in these 2 years of democracy, something that we Argentines have had to fight for, and all of us are now committed to its consolidation. I very especially recalled that as of June 1985 we began to experience a stage of economic stability.

This valuable victory, which was achieved with the efforts of everyone and especially of those who have less, will now allow the country to have genuine growth, an indispensable prerequisite for the permanent welfare of the population as a whole. We are sincere when we propose basic changes in order to solve social problems.

This is why we emphasize that we are not going to come out ahead by dealing only with salary increases if these increases do not reflect the growth that occurs in our economy and if the wealth that this growth generates is not distributed equally. We know very well that -- and we have a very rich experience in this area -- nominal increases only lead to price increases, to a deterioration of the currency, and to a return to galloping inflation: thus we would all be living in chaos, uncertainty and speculation. This fact was stressed recently by the economy minister.

We are at the dawn of the 21st century, and this is why we want to modernize the labor relations system in order to achieve new models of participation; to induce a change in conduct so that the social factors, represented by the unions and business organizations, do not exhaust their discussions on salaries and prices. We want them to try to enrich those discussions with new proposals.

The proposals that I have formulated have far from closed the doors on debate. They are intended to stimulate dialogue and seek a democratic consensus between the social forces. We said during the course of the Social Economic Conference in December 1985 that we would revise the income policy during the first 3 months of 1986. When we outlined our proposals on 19 March, we clearly said that we were waiting for answers and proposals in order to sit down at the table of social dialogue. That is why today we must outline the instruments pertaining to the income policy:

1. The private sectors that are included in the collective bargaining committees will be allowed to negotiate their salaries from April to December on the basis of the inflation rate that has been forecast for 1986, between a minimum increase of 18 percent and a maximum of 25 percent. The increases that result from those negotiations must be distributed proportionally every 3 months, and the system that has been forecast for 1986, between a minimum increase of 18 percent and a maximum of 25 percent. The increases that result from those negotiations must be distributed proportionally every 3 months, and the system that has been provided will give the overall salary guidelines that will be in force until 31 December 1986.

2. The state enterprises and/or organizations whose workers use the collective bargaining committee system will be allowed to negotiate their salaries in the manner described in point No. 1 and within the inflation rate that has been forecast with a minimum of 18 percent and a maximum of 21 percent, thus establishing a factor of solidarity and equity in the distribution of the public sector's resources, which the state must face with what it has in the budget.

3. A 5-percent salary increase as of 1 April will be granted to the National Public Administration sector with periodic adjustments based on the budget guidelines for the 1986 administration seeking, as I stated in my previous message, to preserve the workers' purchasing power. Within this overall framework, the progress being made regarding personnel policy will allow the introduction of more flexibility at this progress becomes consolidated. The offering of university training in administration in the near future is one of the measures designed for this purpose.

4. Continuing with our overall salary policy and our policy of fair distribution, the minimum income of pensioners will be increased by 14.3 percent. As a result, pensioners will receive a minimum income of 80 australs and the rest of the beneficiaries of system a 5-percent increase. These increases will be implemented in April.

5. In order to balance the income level, those workers and pensioners with a family will be granted a family subsidy increase of 12 percent over that established for March.

6. The basic minimum wage will be increased by the same percentage as that of pensioners income. Therefore, it will be established at 80 australs.

7. We have sought to equitably distribute the burden. This is why we have placed emphasis on helping the lower-income sectors.

More proof of this is the guaranteed social salary which has been set at 100 australs and which corresponds to workers who fall under the labor contract law, special statutes, and the national public administration. This salary is in effect as of 1 April.

The tools and laws implementing the wage measures I have just announced will be disclosed in the next few days. These are promises we made. To delay adopting this decision would only have harmed the workers. With these specific announcements we have opened the doors for collective bargaining within the guidelines of our possibilities.

We urge each and every union leader and businessman who may sit at the negotiating table to sharpen his capacity and, in fully exercising his respective responsibilities, negotiate as much as possible so that agreements he may sign may safeguard society's interest and, particularly guard against unemployment.

Fellow countrymen: only a few sectors in the world are not currently affected by the economic crisis. Everyone is aware of our recent past. Nobody, therefore, can say he does not know the reasons for our crisis. Therefore, we only do what we can. We are aware of the current difficulties because we are also experiencing them. But we Argentine citizens have the necessary moral and material reserves to overcome our past and continue to build the future, which requires our solidarity. Thank you very much.

CGT Response

PY060336 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2156 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA) -- The CGT [Central Confederation of Labor] today denounced the "enforcement of the most savage phase of the war economy" announced last night to the country as "a direct attack on the needs and hopes of the people." The CGT said that "the government wants no agreement other than the one it already has with international usury."

The CGT says that "the government is solely responsible for implementing a new system for freezing wages. It has tried to disguise this system as a labor-business discussion that lacks any flexibility."

In a communique released this afternoon, the CGT points out that "the situation is now clear: On one side, the government has its adjustment plan: the shrinking of the people's work and consumption capacity." On "the other side is the organized labor movement, the national political opinion with no commitment to foreign opinion, and the millions of workers who cannot get health care, clothing, and education through words and promises."

In the document entitled "The Second Phase of the Attack on the People's Economy," the CGT says that "hoping to get our support, the government wants us to become accomplices of this new subjection to hunger and unemployment to which the entire working and economically inactive population of the country is going to be condemned." The document says: "Once again social reality is forced into the narrow molds of an economy aimed at satisfying the unacceptable demands of international usury." The document adds: "This is a challenge to the legitimate capacity to defend the basic rights of active and retired workers."

The CGT document says that "on one side, the government plan advocates misery and slow death," and "on the other side is the struggle for the people's right to life and dignity." The document adds that "the people, armed with the truth and the strength of justice, will defeat not a government but a plan of destruction, which if accepted, would become collective suicide."

The CGT harshly criticized the announcements made last night by Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Labor Minister Hugo Barrionuevo by saying that Sourrouille "gave the guidelines of hunger" and that the labor minister "does not exist," and "he announced without blushing that we will remain unhappy and unable to buy even the minimum consumption needs."

The document adds: "Does the government know how many goods and services that are basic family needs have become a sad and nostalgic memory for entire families with salaries that do not provide them with enough to eat?" The document says that the salary increase announced last night is "a condemnation to collective hunger, underwritten by those responsible for it but not by the CGT." The CGT also criticized the 25-percent ceiling on wage hikes for this year, taking into account that ever since the implementation of the plan attacking the economy of the people wages have fallen by 36.8 percent, which will never be recovered.

PEREZ DE CUELLAR SUPPORTS CONTADORA INITIATIVES

PY050405 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2151 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (EFE) -- UN Secretary General, Peruvian citizen Javier Perez de Cuellar, today stated that "we fully support efforts by the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group" on the eve of the meeting they will hold in Panama. During a press conference today at the UN Information Center in Buenos Aires, Perez de Cuellar asserted that "our countries (Latin American) are the ones that hold the solution to the Central American conflict in their hands."

"We must prevent alien influences in the area" said the UN secretary general, who today held a meeting with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. This afternoon Caputo will travel to Panama to attend a meeting of the Contadora Group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela) and its Support Group formed by Argentina, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay. Perez de Cuellar noted that "when I talk about interference I think that the ideological aspect of the Central American problem should not be overemphasized. Basically, the problem is of a very important socio-economic nature but not of an ideological nature."

"Therefore, there is nobody more qualified than our countries, and I say this in my capacity as a Latin American and not as UN secretary general, that are acquainted with the problems of the region, to find a solution free of alien influences to the problem." added Perez de Cuellar. I believe that foreign influences -- referring to the United States and the Soviet Union -- will only contribute to worsening the Central American problem.

He noted that in order to understand the problem "the socio-economic problem must be taken into account but from an overall and political point of view. All the developed countries should contribute to improving the living standards of the Latin American countries as a means to peacefully solve the conflicts." Perez de Cuellar ended by stating that "a solution to the Central American problem can be found but outside the context of the East-West confrontation, because this is exclusively a Latin American problem."

Denies Falklands Proposal

PY062329 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Apr (NA) -- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today denied having delivered to the Argentine president a proposal for a tripartite government of the Malvinas Islands by Argentina, Great Britain, and the United States. Perez de Cuellar said he had not brought "any proposal" and denied reports that Alfonsin had delivered to him an Argentine proposal. He said: "I have come without a proposal and I am leaving without one."

Perez de Cuellar made these remarks at Jorge Newbery Airport shortly before leaving the country after a 3-day official visit. He said he held "interesting and extremely useful talks" with President Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Caputo. He also described his visit as "positive" for strengthening ties between Argentina and the United Nations and noted that issues such as the Malvinas, the foreign debt, and the Central American military conflict (Contadora) "concern not only the Argentine Government but the United Nations as well."

Perez de Cuellar said he had "a clear idea of the Argentine position," which he will be able to convey to London in May "because I will always try to serve as a bridge between the two governments." Perez de Cuellar visited Argentina as part of a tour of Latin American countries during which he met with officials of Brazil, Peru [as received] and Venezuela.

POLICE GUARD FOR U.S. MISSIONS REINFORCED

PY051901 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Apr 86 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- The federal police have tightened security at Brazilian airports, ports, and borders after the U.S. Embassy asked for reinforced surveillance to guard against a possible Libyan attack. Federal Police Department Director General Romeu Tuma has said that he is unaware of any concrete fact proving a CIA charge that the U.S. diplomatic missions in Brazil will be attacked by Libyan terrorists. However, he said that "if there is smoke, it is because there is a fire somewhere."

In Sao Paulo, U.S. Consulate assistant Jose Cavichioli on 2 April asked Federal Police Superintendent Marco Antonio Veronezzi for federal and military police cooperation. Veronezzi said that the police guard will be reinforced at the Consulate building, which is already protected by U.S. guards, at a building next door where consulate officials live, and throughout the entire neighborhood.

The U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro has also asked the military police to reinforce the guard outside the consulate's building on Presidente Wilson Avenue. Joseph Marek, the U.S. Consulate press attache, has said that or orders from the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, internal protection in the U.S. missions in Porto Alegre, Recife, and Salvador has been reinforced. Even the house of Alfonso Arenales, U.S. general consul in Rio de Janeiro, is under police protection.

Acting Itamaraty spokesman Fernando de Melo Barreto has said that the Brazilian Government has no reason to rule out the possibility of the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia being attacked by Libyan terrorists. He said that the responsibility for stating that the U.S. Embassy may be attacked rests with the U.S. Government, which has asked the Brazilian Government for police protection, which has been granted.

Fernando de Melo last night read a 4-point note that contains the Brazilian position on this issue. The note, which was read to the journalists, says: "The U.S. Embassy believes that there is a Libyan threat," and "the standard procedure in such cases is that the host country where the embassy is headquartered should provide appropriate police protection."

The note adds: "If the U.S. Government tells us of a possible attack, we have no reason to doubt it. We act in compliance with the rules of international coexistence, under which we have to protect and guarantee the security of the foreign diplomats accredited to the Brazilian Government."

The Libyan Embassy has made no comment on the CIA charges. Libyan Ambassador Faruq al-Seayti and Press Attache Salt-Ralah have refused to comment on the charges, which were reported in the 2 April issue of O GLOBO. In Washington, a high-level official of the State Department Counterterrorist Bureau has told O GLOBO that the bureau has no information on possible Libyan terrorist attacks against the U.S. missions in Brazil.

U.S. CULTURAL CENTER HIT IN DYNAMITE ATTACK

PY041327 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 1115 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] [In progress] ...was knocked down near the Plaza San Martin by the explosion of a stick of dynamite. The explosion destroyed windows in nearby buildings. There was a similar attack on the main door of the Pedro Martinto store, a farming machinery and car dealership, located on 1150 General Varela Avenue in Brina district, near City Hall. A series of synchronized attacks took place shortly before midnight. Apparently some of the attacks were diversionary. Police immediately combed the city, searching mainly in shantytowns, and arrested many suspects.

The Peruvian-U.S. Cultural Institute was one of the objectives of the attacks, and its guard Vicente Davila Venavides was wounded. He was hospitalized in the 2 de Mayo hospital. Other objectives included a branch of La Victoria bank, located at No. 4 Mexico Avenue, and of Banco del Sur del Peru, as well as the La Salle school, a headquarters of the Nationalist Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party, on La Mar Street in La Victoria neighborhood, and the Hogar store of Paseo de la Republica Avenue.

EARTHQUAKE KILLS 16, DESTROYS 2,000 HOUSES

PY062357 Paris AFP in Spanish 2219 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Lima, 6 Apr (AFP) -- At least 16 people died, 170 were injured, and 2,000 houses were destroyed by the earthquake that hit Cusco and 40 other towns of the sacred Inca Valley on 5 April. This information was released this afternoon by Cusco Prefect Julio Ladron de Guevara, head of the local civil defense board, who provided a preliminary assessment of the situation. The earthquake registered 5.8 degrees on the Richter scale. Thus far, the tremor has been followed by 9 aftershocks. The prefect said that a state of emergency has been declared in this area in southeastern Peru, 1,155 km from Lima.

14 TERRORISTS DIE IN LA MAR PROVINCE

PY041430 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1310 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command issued a communique reporting that 14 terrorists were killed during two clashes in La Mar Province of the Ayacucho Department on 27 March. Army members also found 10 caves where the subversives lived and kept a large amount of weapons and Shining Path propaganda.

ARAB GROUPS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANE CRASH

PA041839 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpts] Beirut, 4 Apr (AFP) -- Two organizations -- the "Arab Revolutionary Brigades" and the "Egyptian Revolutionaries" -- claimed responsibility today for a suicide mission that caused a Mexicana de Aviacion Boeing 727 airliner to crash, killing 166 people.

In a typewritten communique in Arab dated in Cairo and Beirut and delivered to a Western news agency in the Lebanese capital, the two organizations claim that the "hero-martyr Mohammad Mustapha Mohsen al-Mash'ur" caused the destruction of the Mexican airliner in reprisal for the U.S. show of force in the Gulf of Sidra and an Israeli air raid against a Palestinian camp in Lebanon 27 March.

The communique, which enclosed a black-and-white photograph of the youth, who appeared to be approximately 20 years old, did not indicate his nationality, however. "We announce," the communique signed by the two organizations states, "the destruction of the Mexican airplane that crashed on 31 March 1986 as the result of a martyr operation in reprisal for the U.S. imperialistic military attempt to invade the territory of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. [quotation marks as received] It is also a symbol of reprisal against the Zionist-fascist-U.S. raid against the (Palestinian refugee) camp of Miyah wa Miyah in southern Lebanon." This operation left a toll of 10 dead. "We assume full responsibility (for this operation), the note adds, by virtue of our commitment to the masses of our Arab nation ummah totally independent of all international or official Arab considerations."

"Any attack by the United States or the Zionist entity will entail (on our part) a harsh and implacable response that will not take into consideration international concerns, but only those of the masses of our nation," the communique states. The communique ended with slogans critical of the "Mubarak-Abu Ghazalah regime" (Egyptian defense minister), American imperialism, and Zionism, and the last tribute to honor the "victory of the masses of our Arab nation."

Claim Doubted; Security Tightened

PA051315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0737 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Apr (EFE) -- The Mexican Government has redoubled security measures to protect the lives and property of travellers using Mexican airlines and airports, a Government Secretariat communique has reported.

The office of the attorney general of the republic has strengthened the guard posts at the entrances and exits of airports, redoubled surveillance at the air terminals, and increased technical resources for detecting dangerous materials on persons, in luggage, and in cargo in general.

The communique emphasized that without harming the passengers, the surveillance measures are being carried out in a courteous and consistent manner with all persons using airlines, but within the legal restrictions that emphasize security and prevent any type of criminal attack.

According to reports coming from Beirut, two terrorist organizations claimed credit on Friday for the suicide operation carried out last Monday against a "Boeing 727" of Mexicana de Aviacion, killing 166 persons. The communique points out that the Mexican Foreign Secretariat has received reports from various secret services of the Middle East that rule out the existence of these two organizations, the Arab Revolutionary Brigade and the Egyptian Revolutionary Brigade.

The Government Secretariat pointed out that these reports momentarily confused public opinion and it "is important to emphasize that they were false, and diplomatic circles have criticized how criminal it is to make such hasty statements." The secretariat pointed out that the Egyptian and Lebanese Embassies have denied the authenticity of the alleged action by an Arab command. "There are no previous actions, as the report says, that could confirm the actions of such Arab groups," the secretariat pointed out. It also pointed out that there is no basis for believing that the "Boeing 727-200" accident is the result of terrorist actions.

"Although it is has been fully proven that there are no such commando groups, the Mexican Government will redouble its efforts to maintain tranquillity at its airports," the Government Secretariat concluded.

TEN HONDURAN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRIVE

FL050400 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Approximately 10 Honduran political prisoners arrived today in Mexico City after being isolated for 2 days at the Mexican Embassy in Tegucigalpa. The prisoners were liberated by an amnesty decreed in March by the Honduran Congress, and they are Jose Otilio Juarez, Luis Alonso Perez, Cecilia Martinez, Gregorio Pinto, Benedicto Perez, Ana Pargarita Martinez, Jorge Alberto Solre, Ricardo de Jesus Ramirez Adolfo Medrano Castro, and Jose Gonzalo Flores.

For his part, Honduran Ambassador to Mexico Ricardo Pineda Milla said today that the political prisoners' stay in Mexico will not interfere in any way with the good relations that exist between the two countries, and the former prisoners do not need safe-conduct to depart Honduras. [sentence as received]

CUBA'S AGUIRRE DISCUSSES DISARMAMENT, ANGOLA

FL050234 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0140 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Severo Aguirre del Cristo, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] of Cuba, has said that currently humanity's main goal is to achieve long-lasting peace since the arms race is increasing daily.

Upon arriving in Mexico City to participate in the 75th IPU meeting which will begin Monday, the Caribbean legislator said that instead of appropriating enormous economic resources for weapons, developed countries should contribute to the economic recovery of the so-called Third World countries. Aguirre del Cristo added that currently it has been demonstrated that military confrontation does not resolve problems, but instead brings the world closer to nuclear holocaust, the importance of the Soviet proposal to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2000. [sentence as received]

When asked about Cuban withdrawal from Angola, Aguirre del Cristo stressed that as soon as South African threats are removed and the necessary conditions are created to end apartheid, Cuba will immediately withdraw.

VENEZUELAN OFFICIAL CONDEMNS U.S. AID TO CONTRAS

FL051542 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Venezuela will condemn U.S. President Ronald Reagan's support to Nicaragua counterrevolutionaries during the 75th IPU meeting to be held in Mexico City on 7-12 April.

Venezuela's Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Ruben Carpio Castillo, who is visiting Mexico City, has said U.S. President's stand is irresponsible inasmuch as it threatens a legitimately elected government.

The Venezuelan legislator reported that his government sent a resolution draft and a memorandum to the participants of the IPU meeting to obtain unanimous support for Contadora Group peace efforts.

The Mexican evening daily ULTIMAS NOTICIAS today indicated that 800 parliamentarians from 100 countries will meet next Monday to demand that the United States abstain from financing, promoting, and covering activities aimed at overthrowing the legitimate government of Nicaragua, stop military maneuvers in Central America, and fulfill its duties as a UN member state. It added that the demands to the Reagan government will be made official by the interparliamentarian union if a resolution draft submitted by the Nicaraguan delegation is approved. The document expresses the concerns of the Sandinist regime over Ronald Reagan's attitude, which threatens Nicaragua's sovereignty and also over U.S. Congress' approval of \$100 million-aid for the counterrevolutionaries.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR ON U.S. ACTS AGAINST LIBYA

FL042032 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1920 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Cuban Ambassador to Mexico Jose Fernandez de Cossio has said the Cuban Government is concerned with the violation of norms and international law that the United States is committing against Libya by acts of force. During a tour of Sonora, the diplomat said the U.S. embargo against Cuba that began in 1960 is unjust and this creates prejudice among the free peoples. Fernandez de Cossio also said that in Cuba there is no hunger or unemployment, and sugar is not the only crop nor the principle source for the economy of that Caribbean country. Cuba also produces citrus, coffee, rice, and tobacco, which are gradually increasing, he added. The State of Sonora is the first producer of wheat and one of the main mining entities in the country with the production of copper, gold, and zinc. In addition, Sonora is an attractive tourist state with its 800 km of coastal beaches.

EL DIA ON U.S. SENATE CONTRA AID VOTE

PA041600 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 29 Mar 86 p 5

[Editorial: "Subordination of Powers and of Sovereignties, Common Practice of the U.S. Government"]

[Text] Subject to pressure from the executive power, the U.S. Senate has approved the aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. Two attempts for an amendment by the liberal wing of the Democratic Party failed; following that, a hard battle in the House of Representatives is expected so that it may give its definite approval to the program. The representatives will debate this issue beginning on 15 April.

In fact, the U.S. Senate has always approved this type of aid by the White House for the mercenaries, even though in this case the reluctance of the legislative body on this issue was greater than on previous occasions. This was demonstrated by the close vote, 53 in favor and 47 against. With the approval of this aid, it is evident that, of the two bodies that comprise the Congress, the Senate is the branch most subordinate to the executive. It is the most docile and obedient body of those serving the plutocratic, hegemonic, imperialistic and cliquish interests of the ruling circles, which represent the government's policies.

Even without definite approval, the U.S. Senate, by carrying out this type of shameful action against the most elemental norms of international coexistence, is actually affecting the sovereignties of other countries and, specifically, not only the Nicaraguan people who are willing to serve Washington as puppets.

The farce of an invasion by Sandinist troops in Honduran territory was staged within the framework of the Reagan administration's pressures on Congress, especially on the Senate to obtain a favorable vote for the initiative. The government in Tegucigalpa made a weak attempt to abide by the truth, but after a day of intense pressure from the State Department and the Pentagon, which sent the Southern Command chief to Honduras, it succumbed and became a coparticipant in the U.S. lie. With that, the recently installed government of President Azcona Hoyo endorsed the mortgage of his independence and his internal and international credibility, and showed his determination to continue serving as a tool to carry out U.S. hegemonic policies in the region, particularly against Nicaragua.

However, one cannot forget that its geographic position gives the U.S. military enclave in that country an influence on the entire region, and extends its radius of action even beyond this region to others.

The steps taken by the White House so that Honduras would confirm its false version with regard to the invasion by Nicaraguan troops, make us recall the episode of the military attack on Grenada, when the letter sent by Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles asking for U.S. military aid to intervene against the Caribbean island, came after the airborne forces had begun their attack.

In the present case, first came the emergency aid sent by the U.S. President, next came Tegucigalpa's confirmation of the version of the invasion, and finally, Azcona Hoyo's letter asking for financial assistance for military purposes was released. By that time, U.S. planes were already transporting Honduran reinforcement troops to the border with Nicaragua, and President Azcona Hoyo was heading to his hometown for a rest.

But with these and other actions put into the scene, the White House was able to make its project succeed in the U.S. Senate. By the wayside lay the concepts of foreign sovereignties and the division of U.S. internal branches of government. With the next formal step, at the House of Representatives, new scenes and forms of pressure will be prepared to make the project succeed. Whether this device succeeds or not President Ronald Reagan's intentions to get rid of the legitimate government of Nicaragua and to replace it with one representing his interests is clearly expressed.

For all the preceding, the role played by the Contadora Group as a political instrument in settling the conflict through dialogue and negotiation must be reviewed. It will be up to the Contadora Group and the Support Group, in the continuation of the negotiations that have been going on for 3 years, to carry most of the weight in the building of a solid political retaining wall that will prevent an armed conflict in Central America.

Contadora and the Support Group, which have the support of the most important majorities in Latin America, must impose the only criteria that will bring peace in the area: negotiation.

UN ENVOY: NICARAGUA NOT THREAT TO STABILITY

FL050330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2342 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Excerpt] New York City, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mario Moya Palencia, Mexican ambassador to the United Nations, said today at a conference held at Yale University that Mexico does not consider Nicaragua a threat to political stability.

The Mexican ambassador spoke on relations between Latin America and the United States, and he stressed that Mexico participates in the negotiating process of the Contadora Group, which has world support, to promote peaceful solutions to the Central American conflict.

Moya Palencia said Mexico is concerned that Central America is suffering the greatest militarization of its history despite the efforts of Central American countries and the Contadora Group. Peace cannot be achieved by preparing for war, said the ambassador. He also praised the U.S. public that rejects direct military intervention in Central America.

Moya Palencia also stressed the adverse consequences that would result from isolating Nicaragua from the Latin American system as occurred with Cuba 20 years ago.

During the Yale conference, the diplomat suggested the U.S. Congress give peace a chance in Central America, and he rejected the false idea that the region is an enemy of the United States.

One should respect the peoples' right to self-determination and not impose specific political models, he said. No one can impose democracy on others because this would not be democratic, said Moya Palencia.

GDR AMBASSADOR ON STRENGTHENING RELATIONS

FL051456 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0020 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] Villahermosa, Mexico, 4 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Today, GDR Ambassador Joachim Naumann said the GDR will increase relations with Mexico to help in its industrialization process.

After meeting with Governor Enrique Gonzalez Pedrero to establish a scientific, technological, and economic cooperation agreement, the diplomat noted that his country is trying to strengthen friendship ties with Mexico.

PEMEX DIRECTOR: OIL EXPORTS STILL PROFITABLE

PA041645 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta has assured that our country is one of the producers with the lowest crude extraction costs and that consequently, crude exports are still profitable for Mexico.

He added that our country's petroleum fields are located in strategic sites, which results in significant savings and low production costs. Beteta said that Mexico will price its export crude in accordance with the prevailing situation in the international market and the financial state of its customers.

COSTA RICASOVIET TRADE UNION LEADERS VISIT LOCAL UNIONS

PA041936 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Mar 86 p 3

[Excerpt] Two Soviet trade union leaders with important positions in the public sector visited Costa Rica for 5 days at the invitation of the National Association of Public Employees (ANEP) to exchange experiences and information on trade unions.

The two Soviet Union leaders are Boris Makarov, member of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union and president of the Trade Union of Public Employees of Moscow; and Vladimir Torjov, an official of the International Department of the Central Council of Trade Unions. Both arrived on Saturday and will return to their country today.

The Soviets took advantage of the visit not only to meet with ANEP members, but also with leaders of all of the Costa Rican labor unions. They discussed the activities of trade unions in the Soviet Union and received information on the work of unions in the capitalist system.

DEPUTY SAYS TUNA FISHING AGREEMENT IMPORTANT

PA052347 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Deputy Edgar Guardiola has said that the ratification of the agreement on tuna fishing in the eastern Pacific is very important. He said that it is the first positive step for Costa Rica, because the United States recognizes the 200 maritime miles for which our country demands respect, because it considers that area to be part of our maritime patrimony.

Guardiola added that the U.S. Government is currently paying all fines levied on vessels of other nations fishing under its flag. He said that besides acknowledging our sovereignty over the 200 maritime miles, the agreement creates a greater inflow of foreign currency to our country and many employment opportunities due to the arrival of international fishing fleets to our ports.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS -- On 8 April, newly appointed ambassadors will present their credentials to President Luis Alberto Monge. They are David Manuel Pere Ramos from Panama, Claudia Chamorro from Nicaragua, and Rodolfo Alberto Henriquez from El Salvador. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Apr 86 PA]

EL SALVADORFPL ISSUES 16TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNIQUE

PA031252 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT
1 Apr 86

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, FPL, on 1 April; place not given]

[Text] The expansion of the revolution demands from us the maximum fighting sacrifices to bring the people's inevitable victory closer.

We wish to address a message and greetings to all the members of our organizations, to all our brothers with whom we comprise the FMLN, to the comrades of the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, and to each and all of our heroic guerrilla warriors and militiamen, who are making possible the total attrition of the puppet Army throughout the country. Despite its enormous resources, this repressive army has been unable to stop the daily advance of the revolutionary forces.

On the 16th anniversary of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, we want to send a special message to all labor organizations, trade unions, and cooperatives, a fraternal embrace to all working classes, workers, peasants, and patriotic and democratic forces of El Salvador.

We also send a militant and anti-imperialist greeting of the FMLN to the workers and revolutionary movement of Latin America and the world.

Every 1 April, for the past 16 years, has been invariably dedicated to a triumphant social, political, and military process of the people's forces; to the irreversible advance of the revolution; to the people's victory over the forces of the oligarchy, the puppet dictatorship, and U.S. imperialism.

The warmongering U.S. Government is deploying a vast counterinsurgency program with the ill-fated purpose of stopping the advance of the democratic and revolutionary forces. As part of this politico-military strategy, the Reagan administration has turned the old dictatorial model into a type of counterinsurgent state, in which the functioning and policy of the state apparatus is at the service of the so-called counterinsurgency war.

The government of Napoleon Duarte is the result of the failure of the imperialist doctrine. To finance the whole war policy, the Reagan administration is investing approximately \$2 million a day. Despite this, all the millions of imperialism will never buy nor subdue the patriotic feeling, the love for independence and freedom which is characteristic of our people.

To stop our people's patriotic and revolutionary war, the Yankee imperialists through the Army and the puppet government are implementing the most recent methods and tactics of the counterinsurgency dirty war; the use of small units, encirclement and annihilation operations, intense patrolling, incursions, ambushes, airborne operations, and air warfare. To make this possible, the Yankees have provided the most advanced means in this type of war.

In the meantime, the regime is unable to meet the population's minimum needs. In view of the unpopularity of the Christian Democratic puppet government and of the people's growing hatred toward the puppet Army, the U.S. war command has ordered the implementation of psychological warfare, consisting of terror and intimidation, deceit and misinformation, just like the shameful distribution of crumbs which the Yankees call military civic action and which are a mockery in view of the working classes' great needs.

But for the disgrace of this unpopular regime, the people's heart and spirit are with the revolution. For this reason, all the military and psychological machinery of the imperialists and their lackeys are crashing against the indestructible force of the social revolution and are falling apart before the indomitable military and political advance of the popular, progressive, and patriotic masses.

At this point, when the enemy's military forces are bogged down, we see that the country's economy is in a catastrophic state and in a profound economic crisis affecting the entire nation, especially large sectors of the population.

The U.S. Government is testing a war economy in our country that has definitely been a failure.

The decisive opposition of large sectors of the population, of the most representative sectors of labor organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, peasants, blue-collar workers, merchants, and businessmen, is an action which is definitely plunging the Duarte pro-Yankee regime into its worse crisis. These sectors are associated with the Salvadoran workers in a national unity.

This turning point in the people's struggle is shaking apart the rotten regime the U.S. Government is supporting. Nothing has been able to prevent the regime from weakening, from becoming unpopular and isolated. The large number of Salvadorans who wish for peace, justice, and liberation is increasing every day.

This era of heroism, this period of democratic, civic, and revolutionary actions of the working classes and the people is possible now because the people of Farabundo and Aquino have gone through a long path of violent political struggles since 1932. It is the beautiful result of 16 years of the people's armed struggle, strongly linked with the daily political and labor struggles of the greater performer of the revolution: the people.

As a result, the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, under the banner representing the people and oppressed people, has committed its existence to perform and honorable, active, and creative role, hand in hand with the FMLN, a fraternal organization, which is our politico-military vanguard, and dear revolutionary organizations from which we learn the daily chores of the struggle, the Communist Party of El Salvador, the People's Revolutionary Army, the National Resistance and the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, firm and heroic revolutionary contingents, which make us feel proud and which deserve our respect and love.

On this 16 April, when on the horizon we see the signs of a sure victory, our party, the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, reaffirm our decision to build a single revolutionary party. The revolutionary unity is the first condition of the victory of the people's forces, of the patriotic and democratic cause.

At 16 years from the start on the part of the politico-military struggle and from the beginning of the people's revolutionary war, from the most simple actions to the battles carried out and the general war we are conducting today, we have to live and struggle with the memory of the men who traced the path of victory with their example: Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza, Jose Dimas Salas, Ernesto Morales, Vladimir Umana, Mauricio Galindez, Sergio Orellana, Clara Elizabeth Ramirez, Alejandro Solano, Andres Torres, Commander Ana Maria Melida Amaya Montes, Alejandro Ramirez, Isaac Aguilar Flor, Apolinario Serrano, Juan Mendez, Justo Mejia, Jose Roberto Cirian, Eugenia, Cora, Ursula, Gerson, Julio, Lima, and Julia. The blood of these fighters, together with the generous blood of revolutionary leaders such as Commander Rafael Arce Zablah, Rafael Aguinada Carranza, Milagros Ramirez, Carlos Arias, Luis Adalberto Diaz, Ernesto Feben, and many more heroes of the FMLN and of the people, will always be remembered, and the people's victory will be the victory of those who fell.

Today, when the outlook of the revolution is broadening with the people's growing support, the cadres, members, and fighters of the Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces, as part of the FMLN, assume the obligation to double our efforts and intensify the struggle in all fields, to increase our contribution to defeat the enemy's military plan, to break up its infantry operations and the airborne tactics. Let us all participate in the task to turn the vast people's support into a broader political and fighting participation movement of the masses. Let us increase the regime's international isolation. Let us strengthen our positions and our revolutionary spirit. Let us increase our politicization and ideological stand and to contribute to strengthening FMLN revolutionary unity. Let us intensify the people's struggle and lead the revolution toward victory.

With the consolidation and development of the FMLN, victory is certain.

Revolution or death, the armed people will win.

United to fight, until the final victory.

Revolution or death, we will win.

Farabundo Marti People's Liberation Forces Political Commission, a member of the FMLN

1 April 1986

U.S. MILITARY ADVISER 'COULD BE' DEAD, WOUNDED

PA061831 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Radio Venceremos is reporting to our people that a U.S. adviser could be [podriaser] dead or wounded. We repeat, the U.S. adviser who was heading the military units that were in the Villa El Rosario area could be dead or wounded.

These are preliminary reports that Radio Venceremos is receiving at this time. It is common for the people of that area to see Yankee officers and soldiers in Gotera in enemy operations.

We urge the national and international press to visit Morazan's Military Detachment No 4 so that they can see Colonel Vargas [words indistinct] and (?run errands) for U.S. officers.

Early today, the U.S. officer in command at the Gotera garrison woke up Colonel Vargas, who had a hangover. Guerrilla units have already hit Colonel Vargas' troops.

We ask our people to listen to our upcoming programs because we will give more details about these important actions carried out in Morazan Department.

Further Details

PA061725 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1500 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] We now repeat the reports about the great guerrilla victory in Morazan Department. There was an attack on enemy units in the Villa El Rosario area and an attack on a position that is only 4 km from Gotera. In the past few weeks, troops of Gotera's Military Detachment No 4 had been carrying out incursions north of Torola River with soldiers of various battalions headed by U.S. advisers.

On 4 April our intelligence network was informed that there were two sections of the Cacahuatique Battalion, headed by a U.S. adviser, hiding in the Villa El Rosario area. A battalion of our Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, combined with weapons support units, using 90-mm cannons and rocket launchers, was ordered to track down, surround, and annihilate the enemy troops in that area. At 2100, on 4 April, the enemy positions were discovered. Intense fighting began and lasted more than 5 hours. The enemy sent helicopters to try to support his units; they flew over the area throughout the night, but without any possibility of helping the troops under attack.

By 0200 yesterday, our battalion had dislodged the enemy which fled in disarray toward the south, still being pursued by our forces.

There were more than 25 enemy casualties in these clashes, while our forces recovered 10 rifles and thousands of cartridges. As they retreated, the enemy troops fell on mine fields we had set up just in case they tried to escape our siege, so that more casualties could be inflicted. The dead included a sergeant who commanded a section; the fate of the U.S. adviser who headed these troops is unknown.

A good number of the enemy troops were lost yesterday. It was also reported that there was another guerrilla attack carried out by a battalion of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade. This battalion attacked a position of two enemy sections of the Ronald Reagan Battalion in (Los Mata), in (Quilonga) jurisdiction, Cacahuatique, only 4 km from San Francisco Gotera's garrison.

Troops of Military Detachment No 4 were dislodged from their positions. They sustained more than 20 casualties, which also included the head of a section. According to preliminary reports, we recovered more than five rifles and thousands of cartridges in this action. In total, in both attacks we inflicted more than 45 casualties, and we recovered more than 15 war weapons and thousands of cartridges for the U.S. rifles we seized from the puppet Army.

Our revolutionary greeting to the FMLN battalions that participated in these successful guerrilla operations.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO CONFIRMS PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT TO BE HELD

PA041833 Paris AFP in Spanish 1824 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Jean-Pierre Bousquet]

[Text] Guatemala, 3 Apr (AFP) -- "The time has come for Central America to take charge of Central America's future," President Vinicio Cerezo told AFP, thus confirming the realization of a summit meeting among the region's five heads of state at the end of May in Esquipulas (Guatemala).

"During the past 6 years, Central America has experienced a situation that contradicts our interests as neighboring countries," the president said during this exclusive interview, adding that Central America "should not allow itself to be dragged into the East-West confrontation, which is none of its business."

To achieve this objective, Vinicio Cerezo plans to propose the creation of a Central American parliament to his regional colleagues during the Esquipulas meeting. This idea, which was suggested by Cerezo on 14 January when he took office, was well received in the region and throughout Latin America.

The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua have not sat down together at a table for more than 10 years, and when he made this proposal the idea still came as a challenge. However, the Guatemalan president, who intends to recover his country's position as the leader of Central America, "which has historically been its role" and "whose absence created a void that has had an effect on the regional crisis," risked all the prestige he acquired during the elections he won by an ample margin last December and used his gift of persuasion to induce his counterparts into supporting his idea.

The selection of Esquipulas, a town of less than 3,000 inhabitants in the southeastern part of the country near the border with Honduras, has symbolic value.

It is one of the large centers of popular faith where Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Salvadorans have traditionally gathered to worship the black Christ.

The meeting will serve to establish the formation and duties of the Central American parliament, for which Cerezo proposes -- as a first phase -- the designation for 1 year of 10 deputies by each national parliament. These 10 deputies will be in charge of preparing the parliament's laws and "rules of the game."

The Guatemalan president has ruled out the idea of creating a supraregional body and, on the contrary, seeks the establishment of a place where we can meet and make proposals, a place that will allow the reactivation of regional integration which is virtually frozen, and where we can work with the Contadora Group and the other Latin American countries in the search for lasting peace.

"It is essential" -- Vinicio Cerezo feels -- "that Central Americans, beyond their ideological differences and their own options, again learn how to talk among themselves. The parliament should be a great center for concerted effort."

"Concerted effort" is the Guatemalan president's key word; he is trying to turn it into his country's rule of the game after 15 years of military regimes, and he is opposed to any form of confrontation. Cautious in regard to U.S. policies, Cerezo refused to directly answer a question asking his opinion of the aid to the anti-Sandinist armed movements.

However, he pointed out that the option of concerted effort over confrontation demonstrates "the difference in conceptions" that exist between himself and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in regard to the Latin American situation and possible solutions.

"We support coexistence and respect for each country's political options," he said, "but we share some sectors' concern that these options should be of a democratic nature."

Despite the border incidents last week between Nicaragua and Honduras, the realization of the Esquipulas meeting scheduled to take place between 20 and 25 May has not been questioned, Cerezo said. He added that the meeting will be preceded by two preparatory conferences at the vice presidential level between Costa Rica and Honduras.

NUNEZ DISCUSSES CONTRA AID, HONDURAN 'INVASION'

PA060040 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 4 Apr 86 p 2

[By Jorge A. Mazariegos]

[Text] Carlos Nunez, commander of the Nicaraguan revolution, has said that his country is prepared both politically and militarily for a U.S. military intervention.

Commander Nunez was interviewed by EL GRAFICO yesterday in one of the rooms of the Camino Real Hotel, where the Nicaraguan delegation is staying. This delegation is participating in the special meeting of the Latin American Parliament, whose debates have begun.

Nunez is currently the president of the Nicaraguan National Assembly and a member of the FSLN's National Directorate.

Wearing a dark blue suit, the ex-guerrilla leader answered the first question on whether Nicaragua is ready to repel any U.S. intervention in its territory.

"Nicaragua does not want a confrontation with the United States. We feel all necessary efforts should be made. Latin America must play an essential role to prevent such a situation that would affect not only Nicaragua, but Central America as well."

"We think the U.S. Congress should not get involved in a conflict advocated by the Reagan administration. We have seen, however, that the Congress has gradually become more and more involved in Reagan's adventure. Of necessity, this leads us to prepare ourselves politically and militarily to confront a possible military intervention."

"We think that, to the extent that we defeat the contras, the United States will feel tempted to try a military intervention in Nicaragua."

"The notion has been spread through Central America that Nicaragua has armed and organized itself to wage war on its neighbors. We have prepared, developed, and organized ourselves not to attack the countries of the region, but to resist, repel, and defeat a U.S. intervention."

EL GRAFICO: During Holy Week Honduras and the United States accused your country of invading Honduran territory. What really happened?

Commander Nunez: "Really, it was the U.S. Government that accused the Nicaraguan Government of violating Honduran territory. They did it to have leverage and to be able to pressure the U.S. Senate into approving \$100 million to aid the contras and defeat the Democrats in the Congress."

"Indeed, clashes occurred in Nicaraguan territory during Holy Week. The purpose of these clashes was to annihilate and repel the counterrevolutionary forces' penetration."

"The Sandinist forces forced the Somoza troops to retreat to Honduran territory, just as happened over a long time at El Pote at the border. This has been taken up by the Reagan administration as propaganda to pressure the Senate by reporting an alleged invasion by the Sandinist army against Honduras. This situation has elicited indignation in the Honduran Government, Congress, and people because they have seen that the United States has assumed responsibilities that do not correspond to them."

EL GRAFICO: Why have you ruled out a dialogue with the opposition forces?

Commander Nunez: "We have completely ruled out a dialogue with the counterrevolutionaries because they are an army of mercenaries. They would not be a true force were they not trained, armed, and financed by the U.S. Government. In addition, 80 percent of it is formed by former members of Somoza's army."

"In addition, we will not yield to the U.S. pressure. This country tries to generate a dialogue in an effort to give the revolution a reformist nature."

EL GRAFICO: What perspectives do you see in the Contadora Group's efforts?

Commander Nunez: "The Contadora Group has made excellent efforts."

"Sometimes, when true dilemmas have confronted the group, initiatives have occurred, such as that of the Support Group and the recent Caraballeda statements.

"Without a defeatist spirit, however, I feel the Contadora Group's efforts, proposals, and the peace document can only become a very important reality for the region if the U.S. Government gives true indications of specific actions to support this process.

"So far, the, U.S. support for Contadora has been propaganda only, but no specific action."

ECONOMY MINISTER DEPARTS FOR 8-DAY TAIWAN VISIT

PA052252 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Economy Minister Lizardo Sosa left for Taiwan last night to contact important businessmen and merchants of that country to invite them to make investments in Guatemala. According to official sources, he will return in 8 days.

DEFENSE MINISTER SWORN IN AS CONDECA PRESIDENT

PA052246 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] General Jaime Hernandez Mendez, national defense minister, was sworn in as president of the Central American Defense Council, Condeca, yesterday in a protocol event held at the organization's Sessions Room in the presence of delegations of countries of the area and guests of nations friendly to Guatemala. Hernandez Mendez received the command baton as the new president of the council.

Colonel Oscar Ruiz Serrano, head of the Salvadoran delegation, explained how the organization works. He noted that Condeca was created as a result of the organic law of the Central American Organization.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISCUSSES PGT PUBLICATION

PA051505 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Government Minister Juan Jose Rodil Peralta was asked today for his opinion on the Guatemala Labor Party [PGT] publication. He took what could be very well described as a continuing position, because he reminded us of the attitude adopted by one of his predecessors, Gustavo Adolfo Lopez Sandoval. Even though the publication was included in one of the most important morning newspapers, Rodil Peralta said: I know nothing about this.

[Begin Rodil recording] The PGT is a communist party; it is obvious and logical that the extreme left is interested in distorting the essence of our democratic government strongly opposes traditionalist and oligarchic concepts; it likewise strongly opposes Marxism-Leninism. Therefore, in my opinion, it is not surprising that this type of statement is being issued. [3-second break transmission] particularly by anyone. The government is in charge of the country's public affairs and, after so many decades of de facto governments or -- which is even worse -- constitutional pantomimes, Guatemalans who love democracy have tried to contribute at different times to the installation of a democratic regime.

However, a democratic regime cannot be installed overnight, it is the product of many years of hard work.

Consequently, when the 1983 coup d'etat took place and all the people rejoiced because we had rid ourselves of a corrupt and extremely violent government, many Guatemalans prepared themselves to collaborate in a civic way. I was appointed Guatemalan ambassador to Venezuela during the second half of 1985 and, in my opinion, this helped to achieve the political opening in Guatemala, because Venezuela has been one of the countries that clearly and sincerely offered to support the democratic opening process for a long time.

Therefore, this should not surprise us. I think that one must analyze political actions according to the results obtained. Nevertheless, it is interesting to observe that a paid ad was published by the PGT, which is a communist party, and they were actually allowed to publish this ad. This is truly a positive and new sign which proves that we have freedom of expression. [end recording]

HONDURAS

AZCONA DISCUSSES RECENT CRISIS WITH NICARAGUA

PA050313 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0145 GMT 5 Apr 86

[President Jose Azcona Hoyo address to the nation on 4 April -- recorded]

[Text] Honduran people: In my role as constitutional president of the Republic and given the incidents provoked by the penetration of military members of the EPS from the Republic of Nicaragua into several sectors of our eastern border during March, I report the following to the Honduran people and the international community:

1. On 11 and 12 March the EPS raided Honduran territory, simultaneously attacking five border areas: (Cerro Guazapo), Casa Vieja, El Cerron, Piedras Blancas, La Vigia, and Las Tejeras.
2. On Thursday, 13 March, a Honduran helicopter was hit by EPS machine-gun fire while engaged in vigilance activities within our territory, over zones which are difficult to reach by land.
3. On 14 March several EPS patrols again penetrated Honduran territory through the sectors of (Somotin), Yamala, (Bolinquen), (Cano Yulcuasquin), La Esperanza, (Cerro Papelo), (Cerro de la Garrapata), Cerro Toro, and again La Esperanza, and attacked a Honduran military patrol. The presence of Sandinist troops, camped in the sector of Yamalito, was also confirmed. The same day, EPS members attacked a Honduran military patrol in the sector of (Maquengali).
4. On 15 March EPS members harassed the sector of (Bocas de Guano) with mortar fire, and a Honduran military patrol was attacked at the sectors of (Entrepiedras), (Bola), and (Espanol).
5. On 16 March Sandinist troops maintained positions between El Oro and El Rosario.
6. On 17 March five Sandinist units were seen at (Cano Yulcuasquin).
7. On 24 March a Sandinist battalion took up position at Hill 444 and (La Polvosa). On that same date the EPS launched several BM-21 rockets, which hit our territory, close to Honduran villages.

8. On 25 March members of the EPS again fired artillery shots at Honduran territory, hitting Cerro Guambuco. That same day the Sandinist troops fired against the Honduran Miskito communities of (Kuanwasla) and Torres, using 81 mm mortars, 122 mm cannons, and ZIS-2 57 mm antitank guns.

9. On 30 March the EPS launched several BM-21 rockets, hitting the sector of Trojes.

In view of these systematic violations and aggressions against our national sovereignty, the Honduran Armed Forces' High Command ordered the military units in charge of these sectors to repel the attack and evict the invading troops. Simultaneously, a task force was organized to reinforce the military units that fulfilled this mission.

In due time, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat reported and protested to the Nicaraguan Government these EPS actions. In addition, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat reported all this to the United Nations and OAS secretary generals. The Nicaraguan Government denied that the Honduran territory had been violated. It admitted, however, that clashes with counterrevolutionary forces probably took place in Nicaraguan territory and that these actions probably took the Nicaraguan forces beyond the common border. The Honduran Government's stance is not to accept any violations of our territory under any circumstances.

The armed clashes resulted in five EPS members being killed. Others were withdrawn by the invading forces or were left abandoned in the jungle. Seven EPS soldiers have been taken prisoner so far. Their names are" Mario Salomon Hernandez Mayorga and Carlos Alberto Sandino Pons of the Francisco Estrada Battalion and Rolando Flores Tinoco, Panfilo Gutierrez Martinez, Bayardo Ramiro Ulloa, Jose Mejia Bonnilla, and Jose Abraham Sosa Aleman of the German Pomares Battalion. It is precisely these two battalions that penetrated Honduran territory with a contingent numbering about 1,500 men.

Honduras has reiterated its stance regarding the Central America crisis at the United Nations, the OAS, the Contadora Group, and to the international community. This stance has been calmly maintained by our government, as the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry itself has admitted. As the first and foremost objective of its foreign policy, my government is determined to preserve peace, leave Honduras out of any regional armed conflict, and advocate dialogue and negotiation as fundamental principle of international law among civilized nations.

I firmly believe that peace, security, and democracy are three essential and inseparable factors for the stability and normalization of domestic life in each Central American nation and for a harmonious relationship among states. Because of this, the Honduran Government advocates and supports a disarmament and a reduction of men under arms policy and a national reconciliation policy in those countries that still have not attained it. Specifically in the case of Nicaragua, my government has seen with great favor the proposal presented by the Nicaraguan democratic parties to the Nicaraguan government. These parties are: the Independent Liberal Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Nicaraguan Conservative Party. This is their proposal. Quote:

1. Immediate agreement to suspend hostilities by government and unconventional forces for a definitive peace accord and the country's demilitarization.

2. Promulgation of an effective general amnesty law for political crimes and common crimes related to them for an effective reconciliation of the Nicaraguan people.

3. Repeal of the state of emergency and full reinstatement and enforcement of rights and guarantees of Nicaraguans.
4. Signing of an accord by the nation's political parties for the preparation and completion of a new electoral process leading to general elections in which all political parties or groups can participate, provided they are politically and legally recognized.
5. Effective fulfillment of national and international pledges signed for Nicaragua's democratization without harm to its sovereignty and self-determination.
6. Invitation to continental organizations, ad hoc groups and [words indistinct] and political international organizations for them to help implement the points demanded. Unquote.

The Honduran Government maintains that national conciliation in Nicaragua resulting from the respect of citizens' rights is the key to pacification in Central American and the restoration of trust among our governments.

Honduras has been supporting the negotiations process under the good offices of the Contadora Group and will continue to do so in search of a general agreement, with clear, realistic, and verifiable clauses, that solves in a global aspect, the diverse problems that comprise the crisis of the Central American area.

Until the negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group lead to a global agreement, the Honduran Government has the right to try to strengthen its own security measures. It also holds the right to invoke its collective and bilateral security agreements. To apply the already existing mechanisms and in view of the seriousness of the above - mentioned incidents, Honduras asked the U.S. Government for military assistance that consisted of help in the air transportation of Honduran troops to the areas of conflict, and any other aid considered necessary.

As president of the country, I have made legitimate use of my right to request this special security agreement with the U.S. Government to safeguard our people's security and Honduras' territorial integrity.

I am determined to call upon their [U.S.] military aid as many times as it may be necessary to defend our homeland.

The situation of the forces opposed to the Nicaraguan Government is similar to the Nicaraguan opposition that struggled against the Somozist dictatorship. Both oppositions, the one against the Somozists and the one against the Sandinists, were not decided by the will of the other countries of the region, instead, they emerged as a reaction to an internal situation in Nicaragua, created by the Nicaraguans themselves.

It has been Honduras' pacifist tradition to comply faithfully with the international legal principle of respect for the sovereignty of countries. If in the past we said that our territory would never become a springboard to invade neighboring countries, today we reiterate and institutionalize this doctrine as part of the policy of the government I preside over.

The Contadora Group mission is to remove the Central American crisis from the East-West confrontation, through a democratic solution instead of a solution that leaves one sector of Central America free and another under a repressive and totalitarian regime.

So long as there is a totalitarian regime in Central America with expansionist ambitions, supported by an enormous military apparatus, the social, economic, and political stability of all the countries of the region, especially the neighboring countries that have common borders with that country, which is the source of the problem, will be under constant threat.

As president of Honduras and in exercise of the rights bestowed by the Constitution, I have ordered the actions I consider appropriate to do my duty. The Honduran people can rest assured that these grave incidents have been handled with the utmost responsibility and wisdom. We have prevented a psychological situation that could have led to surprising situations that can only bring unrest to our country.

We have not minimized nor magnified the incidents at our border with Nicaragua. The decisions I had to adopt in my role as constitutional president of the Republic have been adopted without internal or external pressure. I was only guided by my democratic and republican beliefs. For this I have had the full support of our Armed Forces watching over at all times for the nation's integrity and security.

In the decisions we have made in the past and the ones we will make now and in the future, we will always act placing the nation's sacred interests above everything else.

Greetings, fellow citizens.

NICARAGUAN PLI LEADER GODOY MEETS WITH AZCONA

PA051831 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Apr 86 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- President Jose Azcona Hoyo met yesterday, for approximately 3 hours, with Virgilio Godoy, president of the Nicaraguan Independent Liberal Party [PLI]. They exchanged views regarding the search for a political solution to the problems between Honduras and Nicaragua and the plan for the creation of a Central American and Caribbean liberal federation.

Godoy said that he did not discuss the issue of the contras with President Azcona. "We were talking at a political level and not discussing military issues," Godoy said, adding: "We talked about the importance that the democratic renewal of the political processes have in Central America." Godoy said that to prevent an armed conflict between Nicaragua and Honduras it is necessary to "search for mechanisms of negotiation, as these norms have been established and accepted, and should be implemented."

The Nicaraguan political leader refused to expand on the problem of the contras: "We never look at something from a unilateral viewpoint, we are concerned about the process of violence endured by the country and we are trying to find a solution to this problem, a truly terrible problem."

When asked whether the PLI is a party that opposes the government and supports the contras, Godoy said, "we support peace in Nicaragua. That is what we are interested in at this time. This means that we are trying to find a solution that will be satisfactory to the majority of the Nicaraguans."

However, Godoy underscored that "solutions aimed at resolving an open and serious problem, such as the one existent in my country, are difficult and represent a greater responsibility for the leaders of all sectors."

Godoy was reminded that the Nicaraguan Government is maintaining its position to negotiate with the unarmed opposition, the civic opposition comprised by the political parties that are seeking a national dialogue, a national agreement based on four main points.

Godoy said that the four points are: a cease-fire that would represent the first step toward a definite peace agreement; a general amnesty that would allow those who chose the path of violence to rejoin the political life; the abolishment of the state of emergency that has restricted the civil and political rights in the country; and general elections that would help settle differences.

In conclusion, the Nicaraguan politician said that President Azcona supports the creation of a liberal federation of Central America and the Caribbean.

PRESIDENT SAYS MILITARY EXERCISES JUSTIFIED

PA060229 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0053 GMT 6 Apr 86

[By German Reyes]

[Excerpts] Comayagua, Honduras [no date as received] -- Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo said today that the Central American situation "eminently justifies" the combined military exercises such as "Tosta-86," which are carried out by the Honduran and U.S. Armies.

The Honduran president and John Galvin, commander of the U.S. Army's Southern Command based in Panama, were present today at the closing of the "Tosta-86" exercises, which began on 13 March, with the participation of 4,000 U.S. and Honduran soldiers.

The Honduran president, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, reiterated that his government will always support "the constant improvement of the armed institution, with the understanding that the improvement of the soldier must be total, involving not just the technical and military, but all aspects of his life, in war and in peace."

It is in this context that his government supports military exercises in which troops of a friendly country are also participating, Azcona, said.

Referring to the friendship between Honduras and the United States, the president said that it was tested in March when Nicaraguan troops entered his country.

"I asked the U.S. Government for military assistance to transfer Honduran troops to the area where the incursion occurred. That aid was granted immediately," the Honduran president said.

Azcona said that the conflict with Nicaragua tested not only the U.S. willingness to provide assistance and cooperation, but the prudence of the Honduran Armed Forces, which should not be interpreted as weakness.

General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces and director of the "Tosta-86" exercises, said for his part that Honduras remains committed to peace, but that the threats on its borders force it to increase its military training.

Regalado Hernandez said that if a real war with neighboring countries were to occur in the future, he is certain that "today's success will be tomorrow's guarantee" that will ensure the survival of democracy, freedom, and justice.

The theater of operations for the exercises that ended today was the Departments of Choluteca, El Paraiso, Olancho, Gracias a Dios, Francisco Morazan, La Paz, and Comayagua, in southern, eastern and Central Honduras.

FOREIGN SECRETARY REJECTS U.S. OFFICIALS' REPORTS

PA050037 Paris AFP in Spanish 2325 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Apr (AFP) -- Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez expressed disapproval today of the actions of Reagan administration officials who reported political or military situations in Honduras, as was evidenced in the crisis provoked in the wake of a recent Sandinist incursion in Honduran territory.

Lopez alluded to the continuous statements on this incident by U.S. officials who reported the incident 24 hours before the Honduran Government even, evidencing deep contradictions between Washington and Tegucigalpa.

Meanwhile, Lopez affirmed that "one would have to verify if it is true" that a ranking Honduran official told U.S. reporters that the United States made Honduras fall into "a trap" on the Sandinist incursion last week.

The U.S. State Department requested "clarifications" from Honduras on that statement according to which the United States pressured Tegucigalpa into admitting the magnitude of the Sandinist incursion, a situation which the Reagan administration used to secure support for the "contras."

The foreign secretary noted that the matters of security related to this country "must be handled by the Honduran Government," adding that President Jose Azcona is capable of doing so and controls the Honduran situation well.

Therefore, he said, "the U.S. officials' information regarding the political or military situation in Honduran territory is unnecessary."

Diverse sectors of opinion harshly criticized the Honduran administration for its "lack of information" on the border incidents and charged that "the information learned by the Honduran people comes from Washington."

In that context President Azcona will address the nation on radio and television tonight to inform, he said, "everything regarding the border problem."

Lopez, who left for the Contadora Group and Support Group in Panama today, said that "it is very difficult to give an opinion" on the \$100-million aid requested by Reagan for the Nicaraguan contras. He said that "the United States, as any other government, on taking actions of an international nature must consider foremost its national interests and not the interests of other states."

He added that personally he respects "the interpretation of United States that pressure or the military path against the government of Nicaragua can obtain quicker results for peace or eliminate the causes of tension in Central America." However, he stated that he did not want to comment on that point "because it affects another neighboring country."

NICARAGUAHONDURAN: AMBASSADOR TO RETURN HOME 'URGENTLY'

PA041228 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The Honduran Ambassador will return urgently to his country today. Isidro Tapia Martinez, the Honduran Ambassador in Managua, will travel to Honduras today on what was described as a family visit by Carlos Alberto Herrera Montes, the cultural attache of that diplomatic mission.

The Honduran diplomat's trip takes place at a moment when the government of Jose Azcona Hoyo, president of that brother country, has taken a firm stand in the face of pressure being exerted on his government to worsen the friendly relationship between Honduras and Nicaragua by internal and external sectors, specifically the U.S. Administration.

According to political observers, the Honduran ambassador will take the opportunity to be briefed by President Azcona Hoyo on the real situation in Honduras and the government's policy when the Contadora Group meeting, which will take place this weekend in Panama, is drawing closer.

D'ESCOTO RECEIVES VISITING INDIAN DELEGATION

PA041439 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto met today with an Indian delegation headed by Minister of External Relations (Kamlesh Sharne) [name and title as heard]. The visit of this delegation, which will stay in the country until 8 April, is aimed at strengthening ties with Nicaragua. During their stay the members of this delegation will meet with the industries, external cooperation, and agrarian reform ministers.

D'ESCOTO TO ATTEND CONTADORA MEETING IN PANAMA

PA051453 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1750 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman will travel to Panama today to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups as well as of Central America.

Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco arrived yesterday in Panama City to attend this meeting slated for 4 [as heard] and 5 April. It is expected that an objective proposal leading to an understanding of all the parties involved will result from this meeting. Likewise, it is hoped this will lead to the definite signing of the document for peace and cooperation in the region.

GRANMA: DUARTE, SEAGA 'VASSALS' OF REAGAN

PA150404 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Edward Seaga and Jose Napoleon Duarte are the leaders who give Washington the most valuable service in the Central American and Caribbean region. This is the appraisal of both personalities made by the Cuban GRANMA newspaper in a commentary entitled "In the Same Bed." According to the article, one can say with all justice that, internationally, both leaders are the most faithful Reagan vassals, and at the same time they are allies of the aggressive and interventionist U.S. policy. GRANMA says that Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga played an outstanding role in justifying and supporting the Yankee invasion of Grenada, and in the emergence of a counter-revolutionary military force in the Caribbean. In addition, he recently interceded to convince the tyrant Jean-Claude Duvalier to abandon power, but not before assuring the continuity of the Haitian dictatorship with others loyal to imperialism.

GRANMA explained that Duarte has a rich track record of U.S. services. His government has favored having the Pentagon direct and lead the strategy of the counterinsurgency struggle. GRANMA added that it is said that eight North American colonels work with the Salvadoran Armed Forces General Staff, and that there are from six to eight Yankee advisers in each garrison. The article adds that Duarte's latest service-- a truly vile one, to say the least -- was to propose that if Nicaragua agrees to negotiate with the mercenaries that are attacking her, the Salvadoran regime would be willing to talk with the guerrillas. GRANMA emphasized that this vile action was committed just when Washington is trying to secure a \$100-million aid package for the counterrevolutionary gangs of Nicaraguan origin headed by former Somoquist colonel Enrique Bermudez, who participated in the 1965 Yankee invasion of the Dominican Republic. Continuing, the article states that Duarte is attempting to compare the Somoquist criminals with the Salvadoran guerrillas, who have never been opposed to a national dialogue. Moreover, they have promoted such talks. Nevertheless, GRANMA concluded, such stances clearly demonstrate that Jose Napoleon Duarte and Edward Seaga gladly agree to share the same bed with Reagan.

COMMENT ON U.S. TACTICS, ADVISERS IN EL SALVADOR

PA041707 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Station commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Again in the past few weeks, the Salvadoran revolutionary forces are asking the regime of Jose Napoleon Duarte to resume bilateral talks to end the conflict which is rocking the country, and which has already claimed more than 50,000 lives. This constructive attitude cannot be interpreted as a sign of weakness. On the contrary, the Salvadoran guerrillas have exhibited a total capacity to resist in the face of the blind attacks of the genocidal army, and are an alternative for power which is impossible to ignore. If anyone still doubts this fact, all one has to do is analyze the results of the most recent military offensive against areas occupied by the insurgents. The offensive is characterized by horrible growing number of U.S. advisers.

Despite the deployment of infantry, artillery, and Air Force units, the Army was unable to dislodge the guerrillas. On the contrary, it sustained almost 600 casualties in actions carried out in March. In those 31 days, the insurgents increased their actions in San Salvador and its outskirts.

According to initial estimates, the economic sabotage operations resulted in \$9 million in losses for the regime. In only the first 3 months of 1986 approximately 1,500 soldiers were killed or wounded in clashes with the guerrillas. This shows that the level of attrition is higher than that of previous periods, but Napoleon Duarte insists on saying that he is stronger than ever.

Such figures, which the Salvadoran regime cannot deny, show the failure of the counterrevolutionary tactics applied by the United States in El Salvador, which combine alleged quick offensives with the terror and scorched earth policy against civilians whom the Yankee advisers view as the guerrillas' social support.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. CENTRAL AMERICA POLICY

PA041403 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] When a group of well-known U.S. ultrarightists met in Santa Fe and drafted the foreign policy for Latin America which Ronald Reagan's government would implement, a new era had begun for the White House: the return to unchecked big power airs that had been dormant in many powerful U.S. sectors.

Some ideologists called Reagan a messiah of the West whose mission is to reimpose U.S. supremacy. In line with this, a counterrevolutionary action that resorts to state terrorism was planned. The Central America case, and in particular, Nicaragua, appear as a priority issue in the so-called Santa Fe program. In both cases, force and interventionism are viewed as correct roads. Reagan is being loyal to such a position. Washington began with the development of the counterrevolutionary bands for which it is now soliciting no less than \$100 million. Then, it went on to transform Honduras into a permanent base for Yankee troops who have brought to that nation -- one of the poorest in the continent -- more sadness and suffering. Let us remember the charges of rapes, the corruption of minors, and the trafficking in children made a few days ago by important Honduran persons. These persons also reported the introduction into the country of the feared AIDS.

As a result of the White House fuss about an alleged Honduran border violation by Sandinist troops, Washington took a new and extremely dangerous step: U.S. aircraft flown by U.S. pilots are transporting Honduran troops to the area where the Nicaraguan troops, in somebody's imagination, entered. There is already talk that U.S. advisers are prepared to support the actions of the former Somozist guards if the U.S. Congress decides to approve the \$100 million requested for that group of assassins. Both steps undoubtedly move U.S. troops closer to direct actions against Nicaragua. President Daniel Ortega has clearly warned in Managua that any U.S. military man who violates Nicaraguan territory must be prepared to run the same fate of the bandits he is advising.

The militarist adventure of Vietnam is little by little being repeated in Central America. In the Indochinese nation, the Yankees carried out the same kind of escalation: financial support for the regimes, in power, the presence of advisers in the barracks, gradual incorporation of troops into the battle fronts, and, finally, a direct and open intervention, in an episode that deeply marked the average North American. More than a few North American families lost a loved one as a result of that imperialist campaign. And it will not be just a few families that will be affected by the same situation if the United States speeds up its aggressive steps against Nicaragua, because Reagan and his team can be sure that if they try to satisfy their crazy appetites, the invaders will have no peace and no military parade in Central America.

U.S. 'FALSE STATEMENTS' ON REBEL TRAINING NOTED

PA040422 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 86

["Note" by Marta Marcer]

[Text] The U.S. Government was forced to apologize to Uruguay because of Ronald Reagan's false statements regarding the training of alleged Uruguayan guerrillas in Nicaragua. This lie was part of the propaganda show staged by the heads of the White House to get the U.S. Congress to approve \$100 million in aid to the counter-revolutionary bands who are uselessly attempting to overthrow the Sandinist revolution.

Making fools of themselves, at an international level, Washington had to admit that it had no proof to back up the statement on the alleged presence of Uruguayan guerrillas in Nicaragua and less proof on the presence of training camps in Nicaragua. Upon the demand of Brazil and Argentina, the United States also had to express its apologies to them because in his insane speech, Reagan also said that Brazilian and Argentine insurgents were being militarily trained in Nicaraguan territory.

To these confrontations with several Latin American governments regarding the issue of imperialist aggression against Nicaragua, we must add the fact that in the past few hours large popular demonstrations have occurred in the United States against Reagan's Central American policy. In Santa Barbara, Boston, Miami, and Seattle, demonstrations were held against more military support to the Somoquist groups. Perhaps the most important of these demonstrations was the one staged by Vietnam veterans who tried to send a list of demands to Ronald Reagan. The veterans asked that the criminal militaristic adventure undertaken in Indochina not be repeated in Central America. This demonstration by U.S. veterans was staged during the days when the Yankee defeat in Vietnam is recalled and when many U.S. homes honor the memory of their dead, fallen in a war of pillage [guerra de rapina]. The absurd glory of this war was to fill the pockets of the industrial-military complex of which Reagan is a favorite son.

SALVADORAN RADIO CITED ON U.S. ADVISER 'CASUALTY'

PA061720 Havana International Service in Spanish 1610 GMT 6 Apr 86

[Text] Radio Venceremos has reported that the Salvadoran guerrillas have inflicted 45 casualties on the regime's Army in the past few hours. These casualties were inflicted during attacks on government positions in Villa El Rosario and on Cacahuatique hill in Morazan Department, in eastern El Salvador.

The station added that the casualties include a U.S. military adviser. Radio Venceremos reported that after the fighting the Salvadoran Army began an intense search operation in northern Morazan in pursuit of the rebel sources.

Meanwhile, SALPRESS reported that Salvadoran guerrillas inflicted 22 casualties on the regime's troops in Chalatenango Department, where the Army is involved in important counterinsurgency operations.

Other reports indicate that the FMLN will implement a truce today, Sunday, to permit the vaccination of hundreds of children in the areas in conflict.

DELEGATE SPEAKS AT LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

FL050058 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] So long as the United States does not make a serious commitment respecting the self-determination and sovereignty of the peoples, there will be no peace in central America. This was expressed by Cuban delegate Ramon Pez Ferro upon speaking at the third special session of the Latin American Parliament which began yesterday in Guatemala City. Pez Ferro said that the Latin American delegates have a special responsibility at this regional meeting due to the great concern that exists in the continent because of the very serious situation and the role the Latin American Parliament is expected to play in solving the crisis.

Other Delegates Comment

PA051241 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] During the debates of the third special meeting of the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino], which is being held in Guatemala City, most of the delegates have condemned those who are trying to impose a military solution on the present Central American crisis. Wilson Pardo of Peru called for rejection of what he described as a brazen intervention intended to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution, and encouraged the forum to express its opposition to the war promoted by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

On behalf of the Dominican Republic delegation, Ramon Ventura said that his people can clearly see the danger threatening Central America, because the Dominican Republic has already experienced two U.S. armed interventions. Cuban deputy Ramon Pez Ferro said that the Central American crisis was created by Washington, which openly show that the United States has returned to Theodore Roosevelt's big stick policy. The Parlatino meeting, which will end tomorrow, entered its definitive phase of debates on the sole subject of the meeting: defense of peace and democracy in Central America.

LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION VIEWED

PA041811 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

["Our America" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The Baker Plan, the plan for the Caribbean Basin, and other imperialist subterfuges no longer serve Washington and its Western allies in (?solving) the serious economic situations being experienced by Latin America, which is dramatically spreading to the rest of the underdeveloped world. According to recent figures, our continent already owes \$375 billion, \$15 billion more than last year, and the trend indicates that this growth will not stop. Argentine President Raul Alfonsin has just inaugurated an international meeting in Buenos Aires on an adequate supply of food, in which he discussed the topic of hunger as a direct consequence of the selfish policies of the industrialized West.

Alfonsin recalled a truism: The path to development and the battle against the lack of food is obstructed by the brutal indebtedness of the Third World and the practice of protectionism by imperialist powers which limit the revenues of underdeveloped nations.

He recalled that 500 million human beings are going hungry in the world and that 1 out of every 4 children in our continent is seriously affected by malnutrition. Of course, this has a mathematical explanation that perhaps would be less terrible if it did not have an alarming impact on people's lives in our region. For example, Latin America pays \$40 billion to creditor banks every year in interest. This is a figure that must be added to the debt service. However, there are other ways to lay out funds, for example, through the flight of capital. Regarding this, in 1985 our America turned over more than \$123 billion to imperialist powers. This figure is equivalent to one-third of the regional debt. As a result of this, the IDB reported, the overall Latin American gross product dropped by 9 percent. Inflation increased by more than 300 percent in the same period, which unavoidably resulted in more misery, poverty, and hunger for our peoples.

RADIO CITES BARRICADA ON PRESSURES ON HONDURAS

PA041659 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] The newspaper BARRICADA, published in Managua, today carried a front-page article highlighting the Honduran Government's charge that it is being pressured by sectors interested in fomenting a war with Nicaragua. BARRICADA, an official FSLN organ, referred to the note that the Honduran Government sent to the Nicaraguan Government yesterday, noting that the Tegucigalpa authorities are acting cautiously and calmly and cannot permit foreigners to handle their bilateral relations. Journalist Rodrigo Wong Arevalo, director of information of Tegucigalpa's Radio America, explained that this use of the word foreigners referred to General John Galvin, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, who directed the transfer of Honduran soldiers to the border with Nicaragua 2 weeks ago [as heard] in an effort to provoke a confrontation between the two nations.

NONALIGNED MINISTERS ISSUE REPORT, END MEETING

FL051224 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] With the attendance of 45 delegations from member states and organizations of the Nonaligned Movement, 4 observers and representatives from UNESCO and the UN Council for Namibia, the second meeting of education and culture ministers of nonaligned and developing countries has ended in Havana.

Those attending the conference unanimously approved a final report which includes various subjects discussed since 1 April. Among them are the illiteracy of millions of human beings and their lack of culture, continuation of the arms race, and allocation of necessary resources giving attention to those problems, as well as the establishment of a new international economic order and achievement of fair world cooperation. The approved document underscores the role of education and culture in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, racism, and all forms of aggression and occupation, including Zionism.

The nonaligned countries' delegates' meeting in Havana also agreed that governments' education policies should be aimed at developing the greatest potential of the individual's intellectual, physical, and spiritual capabilities, encouraging high aesthetic values, and preparing them to face the demands of economic, political, and social development. They also favored the elimination of child labor and juvenile delinquency and called for measures to provide children the best loving care. It adds that the Nonaligned Movement should contemplate establishing the work-study system and pay attention to technical and scientific education.

Finally, the report unanimously approved the Pyongyang and Seoul co-hosting proposal for the 24th Olympic Games, contributing to the solidarity between the people inasmuch as education, sports, and physical education should not be commercialized or professionalized.

RISQUET GIVES ANGOLA'S SANTOS MESSAGE FROM CASTRO

FL032356 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has met in Luanda with Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes who presented Dos Santos with a verbal message from Cuban head of state Fidel Castro. The topics discussed during the fraternal meeting included the extensive cooperation ties between the two countries. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the MPLA-PT [Popular Liberation Movement of Angolo-Party of Labor] and was attended by Cuban Ambassador in Luanda Rodolfo Puente Ferro.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MONGOLIA SIGNED

FL041924 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The Cuban-Mongolian Inter-Governmental Commission for Scientific and Technical Cooperation has been created after an agreement was signed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the state Committee for Economic Cooperation and M. Ochirbat, Mongolian State Cooperation Committee minister. The two countries have had exchanges in the areas of health, agriculture, geology, higher education, and hydroeconomy since 1972.

RAUL CASTRO GREET'S PIONEER ORGANIZATION

FL041135 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the FAR, has sent a message greeting the organization of Jose Marti Pioneers on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, which is being marked today. Raul's message indicates that for our country's men and women, who fulfill the necessary task of defending the achievements of the revolution, there is no better reward for their efforts than being able to celebrate with our younger ones this organization of Jose Marti Pioneers anniversary.

RAUL CASTRO NOTES CENTRAL ARMY ANNIVERSARY

FL050113 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Excerpt] The 25th anniversary of the Central Army was commemorated this morning with a military ceremony held at one of its outstanding units. In honor of the occasion, Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and FAR minister, gave a message greeting the members of the Armed Forces group in which he expressed his confidence that they will complete their agreements and resolutions made at the third party congress as well as the new missions they are assigned. The ceremony was presided over by Politburo members Division General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, First Substitute of the FAR Ministry, and Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the party in Matanzas.

RAINFORD NOTES CARICOM'S CASH SHORTAGE

FL051438 Bridgetown CANA in English 1427 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 5, CANA -- The Guyana-based Secretariat of the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) is grappling with a serious cash-flow problem that is hampering its work, Secretary General Roderick Rainford says. With an annual budget of some U.S. 3 million dollars, the Secretariat has accumulated an indebtedness of at least one million U.S. dollars.

Rainford, responding to CANA queries, declined to give financial details, but said the situation had resulted from the failure of Caricom governments to consistently honour their annual subventions. Whenever major contributors to the budget, such as Jamaica (37 percent) and Trinidad and Tobago (25 percent) fail to meet their obligations in time, the financial problems are aggravated. The problem worsened over the past two years and has now led to a situation where the Secretariat has to consider freezing new appointments or filling some vacancies, Rainford said. Some of the top vacancies which could be affected are in the legal, education and health sections of the Secretariat. Of the estimated 180 staffers, 85 are professional and reflect the regional character of the institution.

The prime minister of Dominica, Eugenia Charles, has been in the forefront of calls for decentralisation of the Secretariat's services, recommending that trade and economic integration matters be the focus of the Georgetown operation. But Rainford said he had not been made officially aware of any request from a member government for decentralisation or relocation of the Secretariat as a whole out of Georgetown.

The budgetary problems of the Secretariat was among matters that were to have been discussed at the March 23-26 meeting of the Caricom Council of Ministers, which was put off. The meeting was originally scheduled for January. It has since been twice postponed without any new dates being fixed. Normally, two Caricom Council of Ministers meetings precede the annual heads of government summit. The first was held last year. The next summit is scheduled for Guyana in July this year.

CDB PREDICTS POOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, TRADE

FL051307 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] The Caribbean Development Bank [CDB] is predicting little economic growth this year in the English-speaking Caribbean and it also paints a gloomy picture for intra-regional trade. In its report, which has just been released, the Barbados-based bank predicts however that economic growth should gain momentum in 1987 if the projected increases in the output of industrialized countries should materialize. It says that a few of the 13 member-states of the Caribbean Community are still reluctant to dismantle tariff barriers which were erected to protect their domestic markets.

CDB TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS

FL051400 Bridgetown CANA in English 1348 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 5, CANA -- Outstanding indebtedness totalling U.S. 18 million dollars to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) by some of its borrowing members, will be among matters to be considered when the bank's next board of directors meeting opens here April 10, well informed sources said today.

Guyana owes U.S. 10-million dollars in interest and principal payments of this total, which has accumulated over a period of more than five years. Other payments defaulters which have at least been honouring some of their obligations, include Jamaica, St Lucia, Belize and Antigua and Barbuda.

A top official of the Barbados-based CDB denied suggestions that a proposal had been made to write off the money owed to the institution as bad debts, explaining that this was not the policy of the CDB. He said that consideration was being given to the creation of a special category for debtors, such as Guyana, to be allowed to honour its obligations over a long period. The official, however, added that this was a very sensitive issue since it involved creating a new precedent that may also have to be extended to other borrowing members of the bank.

When the issue was raised a year ago, some of the bank's donor members, including Britain, France and Canada expressed strong reservations and urged that the CDB at all times adhere to established banking practices in dealing with loan repayments. Similar sentiments were also reportedly expressed by the Bahamas.

Next week's meeting of the CDB's board of directors comes just about a month before the institution's 16th annual meeting of its Board of Governors in Caracas, Venezuela.

DOMINICA

GOVERNMENT SETS BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL JOHN'S SEAT

FL051312 Bonarire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] In Dominica, the government has announced that a by-election will be held next month to fill the seat held by former Prime Minister Patrick John. Mr John is currently serving a 12-year jail sentence for plotting the overthrow of the government of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles. The seat held by Mr John was declared vacant on 20 February following the expiration of his leave of absence from a Dominica parliament.